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Govt. officials 'advised' against using AI tools

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Congress joins Sikkim BJP to oppose Teesta dam rebuilding

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STATE OF PLAY

Targeting a Dravidian icon and ideology

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India-England ODI series from today

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NEARBY

Kaveri 2.0 resumes registration

BENGALURU
The Kaveri 2.0 portal, which was affected by a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack for the past week, is back to operating normally, a statement from K.A. Dayananda, IGR&CS, said. » PAGE 5

Rebels' Delhi visit intensifies BJP's internal tussle

BENGALURU
The Delhi visit of BJP rebels to complain to the central leaders appears to have only intensified the internal tussle in the party's State unit, even as they concluded their visit by claiming that they hope to get a "positive message" by February 10.» PAGE 6

60% polling recorded in crucial election in Delhi

Turnout almost touches 62.59% recorded in the 2020 Assembly election; parties complain about violations of Model Code of Conduct in several areas, Delhi Police say issues are resolved

Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

Delhi recorded a turnout of 60.44% as the polling percentage in the Assembly election was updated at 11.50 p.m. on Wednesday.

The voter turnout figure for the high-stakes election is likely to rise as updates continue to come in from polling booths.

In the 2020 Assembly election, the turnout was 62.59%, while in 2015, it was even higher at 67.47%.

Political parties complained about violations of the Model Code of Conduct in Chirag Delhi, Jangpura, Farsh Bazaar, and Seelampur.

However, the Delhi Police did not register any case on the basis of these allegations, saying that they had been resolved.

There are close contests expected in several high-profile constituencies, including New Delhi where former Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal of the Aam Aadmi Party will take on two former Chief Ministers' sons: Parvesh Sahib Singh of the BJP and Sandeep Dikshit of the Congress.

Seeking return: AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal with his family members after casting their vote on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

High-profile voters

The capital is also home to high-profile voters including President Droupadi Murmu, Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar, Chief Election Commissioner Rajiv Kumar, who voted along with his family, and Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna. Congress MPs Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi also voted on Wednesday.

CONTINUED ON
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NO MAJOR COMPLAINTS
» PAGE 15

Exit polls predict victory for BJP in national capital

NEW DELHI
Most of the exit polls on Wednesday predicted the return of the BJP and its allies to power in Delhi after 27 years, while projecting that the AAP would stand second and the Congress a distant third. The AAP, however, said it was confident of victory. » PAGE 15

U.S. aircraft lands in Amritsar with Indians

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A C-17 wide-bodied aircraft of the U.S. Air Force landed in the Guru Ram Dass Jee International Airport of Amritsar on Wednesday carrying around 100 Indian nationals who were suspected by the U.S. authorities of using illegal means to enter the country.

Sources here contradicted the previous assessment of over 200 passengers, saying that the flight carried a little more than 100 passengers as "large-scale deportation flights" usually do. According to sources privy to the nature of the discussion regarding the passengers on the special flight, the individuals on board the aircraft were handed over to the Punjab Police soon after they landed.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 14

Trump vows to develop Gaza after resettling Palestinians

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump vowed on Tuesday that the U.S. would take over the war-ravaged Gaza Strip after Palestinians are resettled elsewhere and develop it economically, a move that would shatter decades of U.S. policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Mr. Trump unveiled his surprise plan, without providing specifics, at a joint press conference with visiting Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The announcement followed Mr. Trump's shock proposal, made shortly before Mr. Netanyahu arrived on Tuesday, for the permanent resettlement of Palestinians from Gaza to neighbouring countries, calling the enclave – where the first phase of a fragile ceasefire is in effect – a "demolition site".

"The U.S. will take over the Gaza Strip, and we will do a job with it too," Mr. Trump told presspersons.

"We will own it and be responsible for dismantling all of the dangerous unexploded bombs and other weapons on the site."

"If it's necessary, we'll do that, we're going to take over that piece, we're going to develop it, create thousands and thousands of jobs, and it'll be something that the entire Middle East can be very proud of," Mr. Trump added.

Asked who would live there, the U.S. President said it could become a home to "the world's people."

Mr. Netanyahu said Mr. Trump was "thinking outside the box with fresh ideas" and was "showing willingness to puncture conventional thinking."

ALLIES, FOES REJECT PLAN
» PAGE 18

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Microfinance Industry Network (MFIN)
(Ist SRO recognized by the RBI since 2014 for NBFC-MFIs and an Association for Banks, Small Finance Banks (SFBs) & NBFCs)

MFIN, a Self Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for Microfinance recognized by RBI has only RBI regulated institutions – Banks, Small Finance Banks, NBFC-MFIs and NBFC as members.

Key facts about RBI regulations on Microfinance followed by all MFIN members

1. As of 30 November, 2024, RBI regulated Institutions serve 63 lakh low-income clients in Karnataka.
2. Microfinance loans are given without any collateral or hypothecation.
3. Microfinance loans are given to Households with annual income less than Rs. 3 lakh.
4. While giving microfinance loans, all MFIN member institutions take Credit Bureau report of the client to ensure – loan repayments should not be more than 50% of income.
5. All borrowers to be provided Key Fact Sheet outlining terms and conditions and interest rate in vernacular language.
6. In addition to RBI regulations, MFIN has an Industry Code of Conduct for MFIN members.
7. RBI regulations and Industry Code of Conduct specify detailed and appropriate norms of interaction with clients and recovery practices as under:

- Recovery shall be made at a designated/ central designated place decided mutually by the borrower and the Institution
- Regulated Entity or its agent shall not engage in any harsh methods towards recovery [use of threatening/abusive language, Persistently calling the borrower and/ or calling the borrower before 9:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. for overdue clients, Harassing relatives, friends, co-workers, Use or threat of use of violence or other similar means to harm the borrower or borrower's family, assets/reputation, Misleading the borrower about the extent of debt
- Visit to client place only if client fails to come to central place on two or more successive occasions.
- Each RE shall have a dedicated mechanism for redressal of recovery related grievances. The details of this mechanism shall be provided to the borrower at the time of loan disbursal

8. MFIN also operates a 24*7 Toll free number for client grievances, Toll free No – **1800 102 1080.**
9. All grievances are handled through a three tier system- Lender, MFIN and RBI Ombudsman.
10. MFIN investigates each grievance and remedial action is taken.

Fifty-one MFIN member Institutions (RBI Regulated Entities) are operating in the State of Karnataka.

#	Name of entity	Type
1	CreditAccess Grameen Limited	NBFC-MFI
2	Chaitanya India Fin Credit Pvt Ltd	NBFC-MFI
3	IIFL Samasta Finance Ltd	NBFC-MFI
4	Muthoot Microfin Ltd	NBFC-MFI
5	Spandana Sphoorty Financial Ltd	NBFC-MFI
6	Asirvad Microfinance Ltd	NBFC-MFI
7	Belstar Microfinance Ltd	NBFC-MFI
8	South India Finvest Pvt Ltd	NBFC-MFI
9	Satya MicroCapital Ltd.	NBFC-MFI
10	SAVE Microfinance Pvt Ltd	NBFC-MFI

#	Name of entity	Type
11	Svamaan Financial Services Pvt Ltd	NBFC-MFI
12	Annapurna Finance Private Limited	NBFC-MFI
13	Satin Credit Care Network Ltd	NBFC-MFI
14	Fusion Finance Limited	NBFC-MFI
15	Svatantra Microfin Pvt Ltd	NBFC-MFI
16	Inditrade Microfinance Ltd	NBFC-MFI
17	Arohan Financial Services Ltd	NBFC-MFI
18	Share Microfin Ltd	NBFC-MFI
19	Srifin Credit Private Limited	NBFC-MFI
20	Agora Microfinance India Pvt Ltd	NBFC-MFI

#	Name of entity	Type
21	Hindusthan Microfinance Pvt Ltd	NBFC-MFI
22	BWDA Finance Limited	NBFC-MFI
23	Namra Finance Ltd	NBFC-MFI
24	Ujjivan Small Finance Bank Limited	SFB
25	Jana Small Finance Bank	SFB
26	Equitas Small Finance Bank Ltd	SFB
27	ESAF SFB	SFB
28	AU Small Finance Bank	SFB
29	Suryoday Small Finance Bank Limited	SFB
30	Unity SFB	SFB

#	Name of entity	Type
31	Bandhan Bank Limited	Bank
32	RBL Bank Limited	Bank
33	Axis Bank Ltd.	Bank
34	HDFC Bank Ltd	Bank
35	ICICI Bank Ltd.	Bank
36	IDFC First Bank	Bank
37	IndusInd Bank Ltd./BFIL	Bank
38	Kotak Mahindra Bank Ltd/BSS	Bank
39	Yes Bank	Bank
40	L&T Finance Limited	NBFC

#	Name of entity	Type
41	SMFG India Credit Company Ltd.	NBFC
42	Tata Capital	NBFC
43	Dvara Kshetriya Gramin Financial Services Pvt. Ltd.	NBFC
44	Bajaj Finserv Ltd	NBFC
45	ITI Credit Limited	NBFC
46	Piramal Capital & Housing Finance Pvt Ltd	NBFC
47	Avanti Finance Limited	NBFC
48	Northern Arc Capital Ltd.	NBFC
49	Sub-K Impact Solutions Ltd	BC
50	New Opportunity Consultancy Pvt Ltd	BC
51	Utkarsh Small Finance Bank	SFB

MFIN appeal

- Borrowers in case of any grievance should approach their lender and if not satisfied, call MFIN Toll Free number - **1800 102 1080.**
- Do not be misled by news attributing non-microfinance cases to microfinance.
- Do not fall prey to rumours; news of unregulated lenders being attributed to RBI regulated microfinance.
- Continue to be regular in repayment and maintain your credit score. In case of difficulty, contact your lender.

India keen to dust off ODI rust in final pit-stop before the Champions Trophy

Questions over approach and form of the big guns, team combination assume importance as the hosts look to unravel the jigsaw puzzle; the visitors will be keen to revive their fortunes in the 50-over format after having pressed the reset button

R. Kaushik

K.R. DEEPAK

Context. It's a massive word in sport, in anything actually, but let's stick to sport for now. Context, and relevance.

What's the relevance of a bilateral Twenty20 International series of the kind India and England have just played out, one might ask. Relevance for the players involved? Check. For the broadcasters and other commercial stakeholders? Check. For the average fan who perhaps gets to see their heroes in flesh and blood maybe about once a year unless they are willing to travel beyond their hometown? Check.

India's 4-1 conquest of England was an unqualified success, but from a larger point of view, that doesn't count for anything. Try saying that to Abhishek Sharma, for instance, and he will disagree as violently as form might permit. But truly, with the next T20 World Cup more than 12 months away, this face-off must be viewed in isolation, not even as a pre-audition to an audition.

But the three-match One-Day International series starting in Nagpur on Thursday? Now, that is another matter altogether.

In one of those strange but true facts, India played a grand total of three ODIs in the whole of 2024. Just sit back for a second or three, and allow that to sink in. Just three 50-over matches in a 12-month period. There was a time when the 50-overs-a-side format was considered the broadcasters' dream because it offered them so many commercial opportunities between overs. Today, the one-day version is gasping for relevance - that word again - as it struggles to keep pace with its revered Test counterpart and the T20 upstart which has revolutionised the sport.

Hardly memorable

That outing to Colombo in August for three ODIs was hardly memorable for the right reasons. After a tie in the first match, India surrendered tamely in the next two, undone by the plethora of spinners Charith Asalanka was able to summon, himself included. Maheesh Theekshana, Dunith Wellalage, Wanindu Hasaranga, Jeffrey Vandersay and Akila Dananjaya ran rings around India's famed batting line-up, defending middling totals on raging turners with great alacrity and making scores of 230, 240 and 248 appear far more menacing than they actually were.

The benefit of hindsight allows one to identify Indian tallies of 230, 208 and 138 - note how Sri Lanka's scores increased with each match and India's replies went exactly in the opposite direction – as the warning bells that went unheeded. The cream of India's batting found it impossible to crack the spin jigsaw puzzle. There was a remarkable similarity between the batters who collapsed against Sri Lanka and those who failed to counter Mitchell Santner and Ajaz Patel in the Test series against New Zealand at home later in the year – Rohit Sharma, Shubman Gill, Virat Kohli, K.L. Rahul, Ravindra Jadeja and Rishabh Pant.

But we digress. As India seek to shake off the 50-over rust ahead of the Champions Trophy beginning in a fortnight's time in Pakistan and Dubai, they have so much work ahead of them. And, excitingly, so many possibilities too.

Rohit and head coach Gautam Gambhir's wish list must be long and varied. At the top of that list will perhaps be a return to run-making ways of the captain and his predecessor, two of the most experienced and influential ODI batters in the world.

Rohit and Kohli both had Test tours to forget of Australia, the former more than the latter. So alarmingly disappointing was his run of scores that, unprecedently, the skipper sat himself out of the final Test in Sydney last month. A return to the Ranji Trophy after nearly a decade failed to spark a turnaround, nor did Kohli make a substantial contribution on his Delhi comeback for the first time since late 2012. India's principal desire will be runs from their two main men because as they have shown for nearly 17 years now - Rohit made his ODI debut in June 2007, Kohli in August 2008 - they have the skill and the class to determine outcomes of a game all by themselves.

Of much interest will be how Rohit approaches his innings. Especially in the last year and a half, he has swapped personal glory for team gains, taking the lead role in resoundingly advocating the style of play he wants his side to display. His aggressive starts in both white-ball World Cups were massive driving forces in India's charge to the final in the 50-over flagship event in 2023 and to the title in the T20 show-piece last June. To some, the temptation to revert to the Rohit of old, to build an innings and then unleash his strokes, might appear irresistible but while Jofra Archer and Mark Wood and the rest aren't exactly military medium, it's hard to foresee Rohit dialling down his aggression massively.

India have only these three games before they head to Dubai and the Champions Trophy, where they are placed alongside Bangladesh, nominal hosts Pakistan and perennial bugbears New Zealand. They will therefore be seized of the need to approach these fixtures against England with judicious prudence while balancing any answers they are looking for with the need to keep winning, especially after their poor run in Test cricket from the middle of October.

There will be important calls to make. Such as, who should don the wicketkeeping gloves. The incumbent is Rahul, an extraordinary middle-order bat in the 50-over game when he is behind the stumps, but waiting in the wings is Pant, not yet at home in white-ball formats but with the X-factor that most teams would find hard to look beyond. In Pant's injury-enforced absence, Rahul had a terrific World Cup and should fancy his chances of starting the series, with Pant snapping at his heels.

In good hands

Despite their frugal recent numbers, India's batting is in good hands - famous last words? - and while much the same can be said of their bowling, it can't be denied that the latter department looks a little undercooked. A lot of it has to do with the fact that Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav haven't had a lot of cricket of late. Or rather, that while Shami has gradually built up steam from November onwards after being rendered *hors de combat* for 360 days, Kuldeep's only outing since the middle of October was a Ranji game for Uttar Pradesh earlier this month, when he encouragingly bowled 31 overs to show that he has fully recovered from groin surgery.

With blaring question marks over Jasprit Bumrah's availability, Shami and Kuldeep loom as India's strike forces. Arshdeep Singh, preferred to Mohammed Siraj, is still a work in progress in the longer limited-overs format and there is a distinct slant towards spin, something Rohit is very comfortable with. The original 15-strong squad for the England series had four specialist spinners - Kuldeep had Jadeja, Axar Patel and Washington Sundar for company - and India have now thrown in a new dimension with the late inclusion of Varun Chakaravarthy, the Player of the Series in the T20I faceoff with 14 wickets from five outings.

After a disappointing brief and unsuccessful international foray that fetched him just two wickets in his first six matches, Varun found himself on the sidelines following the T20 World Cup in the UAE in November 2021. Determined to add new tricks to increase his efficacy, he shifted his focus from sidespin to overspin with terrific results. Productive back-to-back seasons for Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL brought him back into international contention after 35 months and the 33-year-old Bidar-born architecture graduate has since reconstructed his career in grand style.

His last 12 T20Is have yielded 31 wickets, including two five-wicket hauls - both in losing causes, admittedly - which has precipitated his maiden call-up to the ODI set-up. Whether his inclusion for the series against Jos Buttler's team is a short-term development owing to his hold over the English middle order in the 20-over series, or is a precursor to his being drafted into the Champions Trophy squad as a replacement for one of the other four spinners, will become apparent in the next week. He does boast 59 wickets in 23 List A (domestic 50-over) games and has shown increased fitness and mobility in the field in the last fortnight, so a strong case can be made out for throwing in another attacking, wicket-taking option in the middle overs, which have fallen into a predictable pattern of attrition over the last few years.

England will have their own problems to solve, especially after their defence of the 50-over World Cup ended in underwhelming fashion in India a year and a quarter back, when they won just three out of nine games and finished seventh in the league standings. Their tall and strong pacers may not find much joy in Pakistan, where they will play their three group matches in the Champions Trophy, but that's not something India will spend too much time worrying about.

As it is, there is so much on the plate so far as Rohit, his deputy Gill and Gambhir are concerned.

Foremost among them is getting the key pieces to rediscover their fire and re-familiarise themselves with a format they haven't had much taste of recently. They will be hoping against hope that Bumrah is cleared fit and fronts up for the final contest this series, in Ahmedabad next Wednesday, but they must make allowances for his potential absence and for the massive blow that will deal to their aspirations.

An exciting week ahead then, with so much at stake, so much to look forward to, so much uncertainty - perceived or otherwise - abounding and so many possibilities looming. With plenty of context and relevance thrown in.

THE GIST

- India have only these three games before they head to Dubai and the Champions Trophy, where they are placed alongside Bangladesh, Pakistan and New Zealand. They will therefore be seized of the need to approach these fixtures against England with judicious prudence while balancing any answers they are looking for with the need to keep winning
- Of much interest will be how Rohit approaches his innings. Especially in the last year and a half, he has swapped personal glory for team gains, taking the lead role in resoundingly advocating the style of play he wants his side to display
- There is so much on the plate so far as Rohit, his deputy Gill and Gambhir are concerned. They will be hoping against hope that Bumrah is cleared fit and fronts up for the final contest this series, in Ahmedabad next Wednesday, but they must make allowances for his potential absence and for the massive blow that will deal to their aspirations

Man booked for duping devotee

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jnana Bharathi police have registered an FIR against a man for cheating a city-based private firm employee promising a trip to the Maha Kumbha Mela in Prayagraj.

The victim, Pradeep Krishnamurthy, came across a travel agency online while checking tour packages for Prayagraj. Pradeep contacted the number through WhatsApp, and the accused, identified as Rakesh, owner of Subramanya Tours from Coimbatore shared the details of the package.

Money transferred

The accused allegedly offered the victim a trip for a price of ₹64,000 per person, including flight charges and accommodation. Pradeep agreed to the package and transferred the money online. The accused switched off the phone as soon as the money was transferred. After repeated attempts to contact him failed, Pradeep realized that he had been cheated and lodged a complaint.

'Advancement in protein structure research will open new way of doing medicine'

But there are challenges to making data open and accessible, says computational biologist

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

We have come a long way in understanding the structure of proteins, but in translating that into new medicines we are just starting, said renowned computational biologist Janet Thornton in an interaction with *The Hindu*.

Janet Thornton
K. MURALI KUMAR

"We saw with the COVID-19 virus how quickly the structures of the spike protein, which was the basis for part of the vaccine, could be characterised. I think we've come a long way in that understanding. Translating that into new medicines probably is only just starting," she said. "Today, when there are general patients, very often they are treated for the symptoms and not for the cause. But I think there'll be a new way of doing medicine. Health services across the world are struggling now with demand. I think that will change because once we have enough data, we can improve the services given," she added. A pioneer in structural bioinformatics and Director Emeritus of the European Bioinformatics Institute, Prof. Thornton was in the city to deliver a lecture organised by Shibhulal Family Philanthropic Initiatives (SFPI), in collaboration with TIFR.

"A doctor usually operates on his own experience which is somewhat limited. If we could gather these data together then I think there is potential for more accurate prognosis and diagnosis," she pointed out. While more data is critical to improve research efficiency, Prof. Thornton, who is on the board of Health Data Research U.K. (a U.K. government-funded organisation to coordinate health data and make it available for research), acknowledged that there are challenges to making data open and accessible.

Nature of data

"Health data is quite different. It's very personal and there are ethical concerns. In my opinion, it's going to take many more years to really coordinate health data and make it accessible," she said. Nevertheless, terming data "a critical health infrastructure", Prof. Thornton noted that it is important to make good clean data from hospitals available to train AI programmes.

Public hearings on Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has scheduled a series of consultations at five venues covering eight zones to solicit suggestions from the public and institutions on the Greater Bengaluru Governance Bill 2024. It will be held between February 10 and 12.

The meetings aim to gather suggestions from the public and various RWAs on the proposed formation of the Greater Bengaluru Authority. Speaker U.T. Khader on August 22, 2024, constituted a 14-member joint legislature committee, led by Congress MLA Rizwan Arshad, to examine the Bill. This public consultation has been scheduled on the directions of the House panel. The committee has to submit its report to the legislature after the public consultation meetings.

The schedule

East Zone
February 10 - Banjara Bhavan, Vasanth Nagar, Thimayya Road - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mahadevapura Zone
February 10 - Cambridge Institute of Technology near K.R. Pura, T.C. Palya - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

South and Bommanahalli Zones
February 11 - R.V. Dental College, J.P. Nagar Phase 1 - 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

R.R. Nagar and West Zones
February 11 - Dr. H. Narasimhaiah Hall, Bengaluru University, Jnana Bharati Campus - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Yelahanka and Dasarahalli Zones
February 12 - Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Community Hall, Yelahanka New Town - 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Road safety event at Kristu Jayanti

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Department of Media Studies at Kristu Jayanti College, along with Kristu Jayanti Theatre Club and Hennur Police Station, organised a road safety awareness event titled *"Mind the Space and Save the Race,"* on Wednesday.

Anthony Raju, Traffic Police Inspector, inaugurated the event and stressed the importance of following traffic rules, not just to avoid fines but to save lives. He shared insights on the consequences of accidents and highlighted the need for wearing helmets. To raise awareness, members of the Kristu Jayanti Theatre Club performed a skit illustrating key traffic safety points. The programme was aimed to educate students on the importance of traffic regulations and responsible road behaviour.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No. 40 UBL 2024-25
Dated: 31.01.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division:** **South Hubballi - Karajagi (SUBL-KJG) Section:** Construction of precast RCC boundary wall for a length of 12.8 Km. (Two Pocket System)	Rs. 15,77,05,924.00
2	**Hubballi Division:** Supply of Ballast at Kusugal Depot in Sr. Divisional Engineer / Central / Hubballi jurisdiction. **(Note: Ballast Certificate)**	Rs. 5,46,19,688.00
3	**Hubballi Division:** **Gadag - Hotagi (GDG-HG) Section:** Construction of Limited Height Subway in lieu of LC No. 110 at Km. 243/7-8 between Indi Road - Lahyan (IDR-LHN) station respectively by Box pushing method (Two Pocket System).	Rs. 9,98,28,063.00

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 03.03.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination Hubballi

PUB/760/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE PRINCIPAL DISTRICT AND SESSIONS JUDGE, BENGALURU RURAL, BENGALURU MISCELLANEOUS PETITION No. 30/2024

BETWEEN:

SMT. MUNIYAMMA, W/o Late Srinivasa Reddy, Aged about 59 years Residing at No.519, B/2, 14th Main, Gokul 1st Stage, 1st Phase, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054

AND OTHERS. .....PETITIONERS

AND:

SRI. NAGARAJ, S/o Late Muni Veerappa, Aged about 53 years, No. 160, Anjani Residency, 13th cross, Near Maramma Temple, Virupakshapura, Kodigehalli, Bengaluru - 560 097

AND OTHERS ...RESPONDENTS

PUBLIC NOTICE TO RESPONDENT NOS.15, 16, 21, 23, 26 AND 27

RESPONDENT NO.15:

MRS. LAKSHMI DEVI, D/o Late Mrs. Parvathamma, W/o Mr. M. Sathyanarayana Gowda, Aged about 53 years, Residing at Marasandra Village, Madhura Hobli, Doddaballapura Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, Bengaluru-561 101

RESPONDENT NO.16:

MR. B. RAMESH, S/o Late Mrs. Parvathamma, Aged about 51 years, Residing at No. 17, Byraveshwara Nilaya, 2nd Main, 3rd Cross, Near Ayappa Temple, Subbanna Garden, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560 040.

RESPONDENT NO.21:

MR. K.M. VENKATESH MURTHY S/o Late Marappa, Aged about 54 years, No. 12, 1st Stage, ABG Layout, Galayarabalaga, Mahalakshmipuram, Bengaluru-560 086

RESPONDENT NO.23:

MR. M.K. JAYARAMA REDDY, S/o Krishna Reddy, Aged about 60 years, No. 28, Arivindh Nagar, Ayyappa temple Street, Bengaluru-560 084

RESPONDENT NO.26:

DR. VENKATESH SHAMANNA MALUR, S/o S.D. Malurkar, Aged about 68 years, No. 13, Parijatha, 1st Cross, VH CS Layout, Bhoopasandra, Bengaluru-560 094

RESPONDENT NO.27:

MRS. LALITHA BHASKAR, W/o U.S. Bhaskar, Aged about 61 years, No. 90, West Park Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru-560 055

The notice on the instant Petition is issued to the aforementioned Respondents No.15, 16, 21, 23, 26 and 27 to the last known address i.e., at the address mentioned above.

The service of the Court notice has not been possible and has returned unserved. The Court proceedings may take its own course, treating the service of Notice to the Respondents as complied through this paper publication.

You are hereby directed to appear before this Hon'ble Court in person or by pleader duly instructed on the **7th day of March, 2025 at 11 A.M** before the Hon'ble Principal District and Sessions Judge, Bengaluru Rural, at Bengaluru. The Copies of the Application/ Notice may be had free of cost from the office of the Plaintiff's Advocate, M/s Pragati Law Chambers, 5A, 44/1, Fair Field Layout, Race Course Road, Bangalore560 001.

Given under my hand the seal of the Court this **3rd day of Feb 2025.**

By Order of the Court,
Chief Administrative Officer,
District & Session s Court
Bangalore Rural District,
Bangalore 560009.
Advocate for Petitioner
Address for Service:
Pragati Law Chambers
#5A, Bharat Apartments
44/1 Fairfield Layout, Race-Course Road, Bangalore 560 001.

OFFICE OF THE MEDININAGAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-mail :- municipalcouncil.medininagar@gmail.com

Very Short Tender Notice (3rd Call)

Tender notice No:-UDHD/MMC/30/2024-25 DATED: 05/02/2025

1.	Tender Value	:	INR 3,50,15,700.00/-
2.	Date of downloading of bid document	:	From 06/02/2025 10:00 Hrs. **to 14/02/2025 up to 14:00 Hrs.** through website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
3.	Place & Date of Pre-bid meeting	:	Date: 08/02/2025, T**ime 15:00 Hrs.** Medininagar Municipal Corporation, Court Compound, Medininagar Dist- Palamu, Jharkhand, Pin code.- 822101
4.	Date and time for submission of queries through e-mail	:	From 08/02/2025, 10:00 Hrs. **to 14:00 Hrs.** After last date of queries submission, no queries shall be entertained. Only queries submitted to advertised email id i.e. municipalcouncil.medininagar@gmail.com will be considered and entertained.
5.	Last date and time for uploading of bids	:	Date: 14/02/2025 **up to 14:00 Hrs** Through website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
6.	Time and date of opening technical bids	:	Date: 15/02/2025 **up to 14:00 hours**
7.	Time and date of opening of financial bids	:	To be communicated later
8.	Place of opening of bid	:	Through website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in
9.	Period of bids validity	:	180 days
10.	Tender Inviting Authority	:	Municipal Commissioner, MMC, Medininagar
11.	For participating in e-tendering process, the contractor shall have to et themselves registered to get user ID, Password and Digital signature. This will enable them to access the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in and download / participate in e-tender. All tender queries related to this tender shall be communicated at Medininagar		
12.	Bid processing fees / EMD to be paid through online mode i.e. through the payment gateway of https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in (ii) Bids along with necessary online payments must be submitted in the NIT. The department does not take any responsibility for the delay / Non availability of internet connection, Network Traffic / Holidays or any other reasons. Tender Fees Amount : INR – 10,000/- EMD Amount – INR - 350,200/-		
13.	The tender documents can be obtained through website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in		
14.	- Deleted-		
15.	In lieu of Bid Security, the Bidder shall furnish 'Bid Securing Declaration Form' along with the technical proposal as per the format described in the bidding document.		
16.	All the information / corrigendum / addendum related to the project shall be published on the website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in. The authority shall have the right to reject the bid partially or fully without assigning any reason whatsoever.		
17.	For any information department help line No. 9386849354/7860001444 may be used		
18.	- Deleted-		
19.	Opening and visibility of the uploaded documents at website https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in shall be the responsibility of the bidder. Bidder should ensure that the uploaded documents are opening and visible. This can be done by downloading the documents and checking the same before final submission of bid at e-procurement website.		
20.	Further details of works can be obtained from the office of Municipal Commissioner, MMC, Palamu. For clarification, regarding the e-tendering process, please contact e-procurement Helpdesk, 9386849354/7860001444		

Note :- Only Online tender is Permissible.

Sd./-
Municipal Commissioner –Cum- Administrator
Medininagar Municipal Corporation

PR 345817 District(24-25)#D

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its present owner **Smt. S. Vasanthi**, W/o. Sri. S. V. Dwarkanath, who has represented that she has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, within Seven (7) days from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owner thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant site bearing No.591, having PID No.5228030132, measuring East to West 9.00 Mtrs., and North to South 12 Mtrs., totally measuring about 108 Sq.Mtrs., situated at Block-III of 'Arkavathi Layout', formed by the Bangalore Development Authority, carved out of Sy. No. 17 of Venkateshpura Village, Bangalore, together with all rights, appurtenances, whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and bounded on the:

East by : Property bearing No.592.
West by : Property bearing No.590.
North by : Property bearing No.601.
South by: Road

B. R. Ravi Kumar
Advocates
No.537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560 064**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)
Head Office: Bangalore

E-Auction Sale of Properties on 25.02.2025

Last date of EMD : 24.02.2025

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Ph: 080-25310066. E-mail: cb2366@canarabank.com

E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Immovable properties mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the **Symbolic** possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on 25.02.2025 (Sl.No. 1- 10.00 AM to 10.30 AM & Sl.No. 2 -10.30 AM to 11.00 AM)** through E-Auction under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

For details with regard to E-Auction & digital signature please contact the service provider **M/s PSB Alliance (https://baanknet.com/) e- mail: support.ebkray@psballiance.com Helpdesk Number : 8291220220, Website: https://baanknet.com/**

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of **E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **24.02.2025 - 5.00 pm.**

(₹. in lakhs)

Lot No	Name & Address of the Borrower / Guarantor / Mortgagor	Description of the immovable assets:	Total Dues	a. Reserve Price b. EMD c. Incremental Bid	Inspection date & time
1	**(1) M/S Cadryche Automation and Office Solution Private Limited,** No.32, 1st Floor, 50 Feet Road, 11th Main, Raghavendra Block Srinagar, Bengaluru-560050, Karnataka. **(2) Sri. Krishnamurthy V Udupa,** No.33/12, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, 4th Main Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560050, Current address: No.57, Shop Street, NR Colony, Basavangudi, Bengaluru-560004. **(3) Smt. Jyothi Krishna Murthy,** No 970/321 1st Floor, 50 Feet Road, 11th Main, Raghavendra Block Srinagar, Bengaluru Karnataka-560050. **Current address,** No.57, Shop Street, NR Colony, Basavangudi, BENGALURU 560004. **(4) Smt. Raksha K Udupa,** No.33/12 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018. **Current address:** Sri V Krishna Murthy Udupa, No.57, Shop Street, NR Colony, Basavangudi, Bengaluru 560004. **(5) Ms. Indira V Raj,** No. 57 Shop Street N R Colony, Basavanagudi, Bangalore, Karnataka-560004.	Residential property bearing No. 40 [PID NO. 49-92-40] 4th main road, Gavipuram extension Hanumanthanagar Bangalore – 560019 standing in the name of Smt Raksha K W/o Mr . V Krishna Murthy Udupa (Director) measuring site area – 1441 sq ft, plinth area (SBA) 3600 sq ft comprising GF+FF+SF. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.56405N, Longitude- 77.33517E.**	**Rs. 2005953836.00 as on 31.01.2025 with further interest and cost thereon. Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 263.00 b) ₹. 26.30 c) ₹.1.00**	**18.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**
		Residential property No.57 & 57/1, Old No. 14, Old Ward No. 32, New Ward No. 51, PID No.51-8-57 and 51-8-57/1 at shop Street N.R. Colony Bangalore standing in the name Smt Raksha K Udupa w/o Mr. V Krishna Murthy Udupa (Director) with site area of 1300 sq ft, plinth (SBA) – 3000 sq ft (GF+FF). **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.942296, Longitude- 77.550405**		**a) ₹. 304.00 b) ₹. 30.40 c) ₹. 1.00**	
		Property for industrial purpose for ware house situated at 2nd floor, bearing no 33/12, Old No 26, New No 33, PID No 46-6-33/12, 3rdCross, 4th main road, Chamrajpet Bangalore (built up area of flat 1500 sqft- UDS-500 sq ft) standing in the name of Smt. Jyothi Krishna Murthy Upadhya. **Coordinates of the property, Latitude- 12.57279N, Longitude- 77.34026E.**		**a) ₹. 111.00 b) ₹. 11.10 c) ₹. 1.00**	
2	**1. M/s Avishkar Innovative Pvt Ltd.,** No.970/32, 11th Main Road, 50 feet Road, Srinagar, Karnataka in 560050. **2. Smt. Sulochana Udupa,** No.31/1, 1st Floor, 50 feet Road, Raghavendra Block, Srinagar, Bengaluru-560050. **3. Smt. Raksha K Udupa,** No.33/12, 2nd Floor, 3rd Cross, 4th Main, Chamarajpet, Bangalore-560018.	Vacant Sites, bearing Sy No # 93/1 (Old # 93) (Area – 1 acre 12 Guntas), Sy No # 93/2 (old no 93) (Area – 3 acre 38 Guntas), # 94/1 (old # 94) (1 Acre 13 Guntas), #94/2 (old # 94) (3 Acre 38 Guntas), # 95 (5 Acre 5 Guntas), # 96/1 (old 96) (3 Acre), # 96/2 (old 96/2) (1 Acre 37 Guntas), Kenchanapura Village, Thyamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk Bangalore Rural in the name of Smt. Raksha K Udupa. Vacant Industrial site bearing 30/1 (Old No 30) (Area– 32 Guntas), 30/2 (Old No.30) (Area– 32 Guntas), V P Katha Nos 360/7, 140/1 & 140/2 Situated at Kodigehalli Village, Thamagondlu Hobli, Nelamangala Taluk, Bangalore Rural Bangalore in the name of Smt. Raksha K Udupa. **Coordinates of the property : Latitude- 13.14773, Longitude- 77.32125**	**Rs. 1011664379.81/- as on 04.02.2025 with further interest and cost thereon. Symbolic Possession**	**a) ₹. 3017.25 b) ₹. 301.72 c) ₹.1.00**	**18.02.2025 10.00 AM to 2.00 PM. with Prior Appointment with Authorised Officer**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or E-Wallet of M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/) portal and may contact ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Ph. No.08025310066, 9627872626 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 05.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/-
Authorised Officer, Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

ARM-1 Branch, 2nd Floor, No.86, Spencer Tower, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001. Phone: 080-25310066, E-Mail – cb2366@canaranbank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank** will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** on **25.02.2025 at 10:30 AM to 11:00 AM,** for recovery of **₹.19151139703.63** as on **20.11.2024** with further interest and cost there on due to the **ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank** from **(1) M/s SSJV Projects Private limited,** Terrace Floor, "Vainatheya" No.64, 1st Main, S T Bed, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, **(2) Mrs. Harini M Shetty** W/o N Manohar Shetty, **Director, M/s SSJV Projects Private Limited, (3) Sri. N Manohar Shetty** S/o Late Narayan Shetty, **Director, M/s SSJV Projects Private Limited, Both are residing at:** No.861, 13th Main, 3rd Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-560034, **(4) M/s Dronagiri Farms Private Limited,** Flat No.303, Sri Ramana Enclave, Madhura Nagar, S R Nagar Post, Hyderabad-500038, **(5) M/s Mandaragiri Greenfields private Limited,** Flat No.102, Sri Ramana Enclave, Madhuranagar, S R Nagar Post, Hyderabad-500038, **(6) M/s Ghataprabha Agro-Farms Private Limited,** Flat No.3892, HMT Hills, 2nd venture, Opp to JNTU College, Kukatpally, Hyderabad-500072.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **24.02.2025, 5.00 pm.**

Description of the immovable assets: 1) M/s.Dronogiri Agro Farms Private Limited: **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	282/P1	27 02	33 00	As per sketch	9.13	0.91	0.10
2	282/P2	23	22	As per sketch			
3	206	20	00	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**73**	**15**				

Building measuring approximately 6,178 sq.ft.

2) M/s .Mandaragiri Greenfield Private Limited: **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	205/P2	07	08	As per sketch	3.40	0.34	0.10
2	282/P3	13 01	33 20	As per sketch			
3	282/P3	05	06	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**27**	**27**				

Building measuring approximately 285 sq.ft.

3) M/s.Ghataprabha Agro Farms Private Limited: **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	282/P4	18 03	05 00	As per sketch	6.53	0.65	0.10
2	204	30 00	27 19	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**52**	**11**				

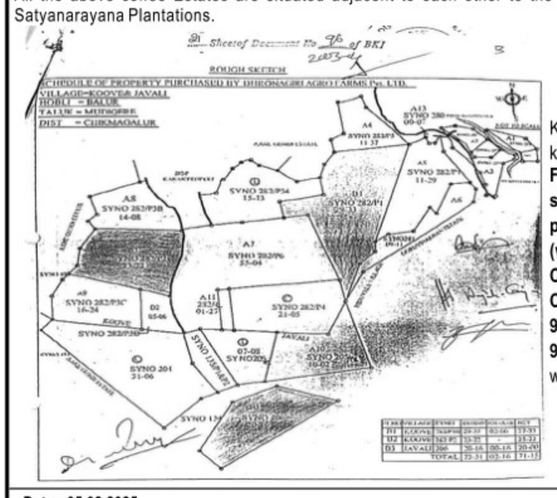
Building measuring approximately 12,825 sq.ft.

4) Smt Harini Shetty: **(₹. In crores)**

Sl.No.	Survey No.	Extent of property Acres	Extent of property Guntas	Boundaries	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Incremental Value at Bid
1	276/P2	02	00	As per sketch	19.23	1.92	0.10
2	277	00	14	As per sketch			
3	286	02	07	As per sketch			
4	287	01	00	As per sketch			
5	279	03 00	34 21	As per sketch			
6	282/P5	10 01	30 07	As per sketch			
7	282/P1	10 01	29 00	As per sketch			
8	281	08 00	39 12	As per sketch			
9	282/P6	50 05	04 00	As per sketch			
10	282/P3	27 03	10 20	As per sketch			
11	205/P1	17 00	30 12	As per sketch			
12	282/P4	01	27	As per sketch			
13	280	00	07	As per sketch			
14	135/P1	02 00	20 03	As per sketch			
15	135/P2	02 00	20 03	As per sketch			
	TOTAL ACRES	**153**	**29**		**38.29**	**3.82**	**0.40**

Building measuring approximately 14,853 sq.ft.

All the above coffee Estates are situated adjacent to each other to the extent of 307.18 acres and now known as Satyanarayana Plantations.

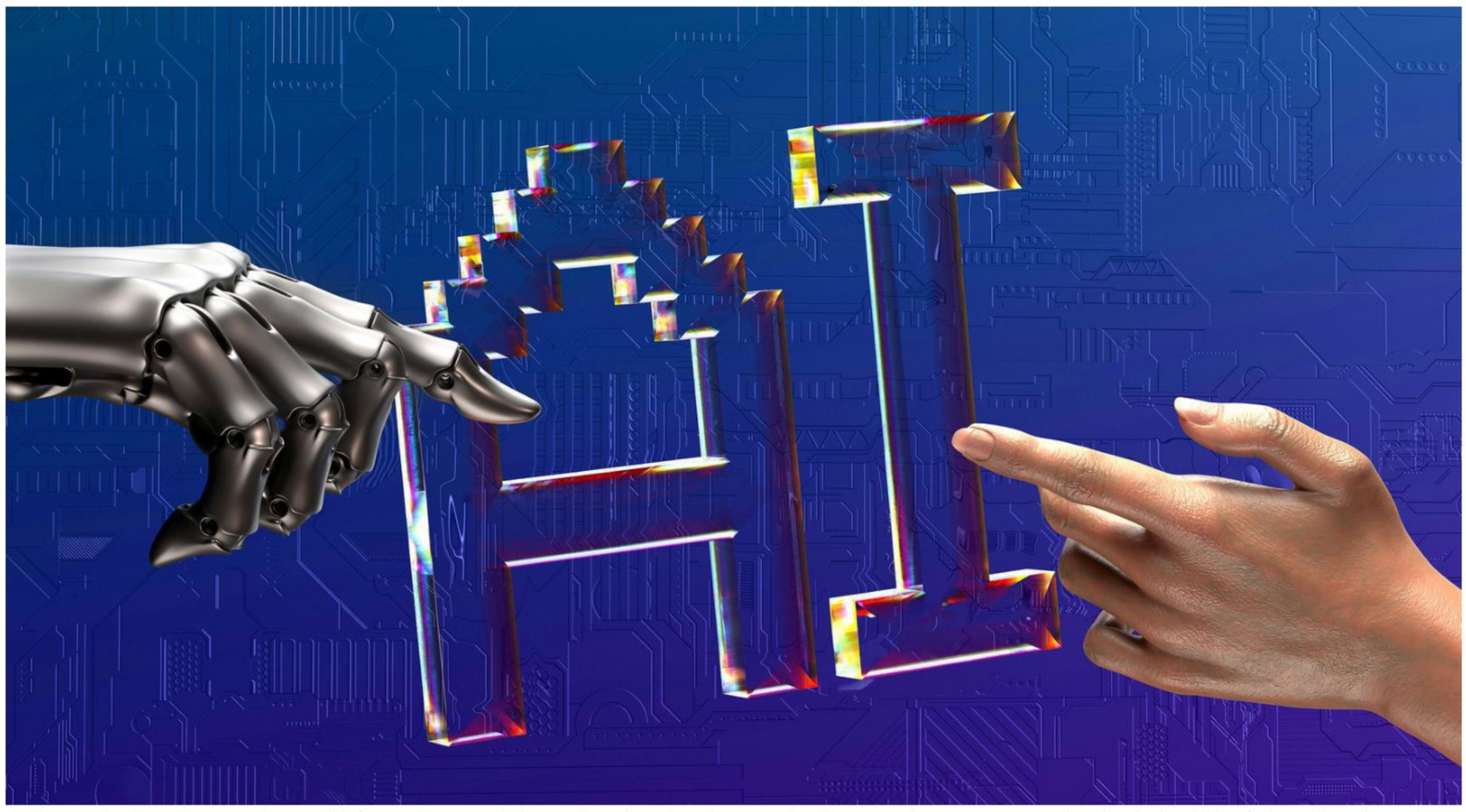


Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager, ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru, Canara Bank, Mob. No. 08025310066, 9627872626, 7483935007, 9538406090 and 9598559920 during office hours on any working day.

Date : 05.02.2025
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank



Machines excel at things that are nearly impossible for most humans, including rapidly analysing large datasets and predicting complex patterns, yet struggle with tasks that children find easy, like understanding motives. Representative illustration. IGOR OMILAEV

Question for the AI age: do machines and humans learn the same way?

The age of artificial intelligence promises to be a time in which scientists will learn a lot about human brain. Existing AI models are inspired mostly by the brains of animals. Human brain makes decisions stunningly fast using abstractions and generalisation whereas machines struggle to do this

T.V. Padma

The dramatic surge of artificial intelligence (AI) has also made visible the machines humming underneath to make its applications possible.

From their origins in being able to separate data into different groups, AI today excels at too many tasks to count. Just in 2024, smartphones have started to be sold with AI models built into them, while five of the seven men who won the 2024 science Nobel Prizes did so for work in AI.

As it happens, the age of AI also promises to be a time in which scientists will learn a lot about the human brain as well. Existing AI models are inspired mostly by the brains of animals. Since these brains haven't been easy to study, scientists have been looking to AI models as a proxy.

How do humans learn?

Machines excel at things that are nearly impossible for most humans, including rapidly analysing large datasets, predicting complex patterns, and learning to play chess like a grandmaster within a day. Yet neuroscientists say they also struggle with tasks that human children find easy, like understanding motives.

"The paradox of today's AI stems from the fact that the human brain has an evolutionary, biological origin and AI does not," Celeste Kidd, associate professor of psychology at the University of California, Berkeley, said. "It is likely that [for] the type of intelligence that we have evolved for taking care of helpless offspring, we need to be able to read the intentions of a child that is running towards a cliff [or one] that's not yet able to feed themselves and say that they are hungry."

According to Arjun Ramakrishnan, assistant professor in the department of biological sciences and bioengineering at IIT-Kanpur, "At the heart of what drives learning in humans and animals" is a "dual focus on both meeting immediate biological needs and adapting to a constantly shifting environment."

"The need to secure resources and maintain balance in the face of an ever-changing environment," he added, "likely spurred the evolution of sophisticated neural mechanisms, driving not just simple responses to immediate needs but also complex learning and strategic decision-making abilities."

Learning is thus not just a process of acquiring static information but an ongoing, dynamic interaction between an organism and its environment.

"The brain, shaped by evolutionary pressures, must adapt not only to predictable stimuli but also to the unpredictability of environmental fluctuations," he added. "This complexity is reflected in the ability of humans and animals to sense and respond to rapid changes in the environment and social interactions, a key advantage for survival."

Learning is thus long-duration, interactive, and includes feedback loops between the organism's internal state and external challenges.

Humans' upper hand

According to biologists at the Heidelberg Laureate Forum, a meeting held in September 2024 in Germany, machines are not curious. "Unlike AI systems, children are naturally curious, exploring the world on their own while simultaneously learning within a social and cultural context," Kidd said at the forum. "Our curiosity is driven by knowing what we don't know."

According to Kidd, the information children discover when they seek it is of a different type than the data fed into AI systems.

"The single experience of a child with an apple is very different from Google Photos labelling an apple in an image. A child's experience with an apple is sensory. They're feeling the apple, they're seeing the apple, it's multi-dimensional. The data people are getting is much, much richer. And there are tonnes of correlations you can pick up on in order to leverage things like learning and generalisation."

The human brain and the body have been "trained" on such data over millennia.

Thus, human learning requires much less data to solve a problem with the same level of proficiency, according to Ashesh Dhawale, the DBT Wellcome Trust India Alliance Intermediate Fellow at the Centre for Neuroscience, Indian Institute of Science, Bengaluru.

For example, although the AlphaZero model developed by Google subsidiary DeepMind is better at chess than any human player, it reached this level of proficiency only after playing around 40 million games during its training, Dhawale said. "In contrast, it is estimated that humans need some tens of thousands of training games to reach grandmaster proficiency."

"One of the key advantages humans have over machines lies in the speed and efficiency of learning," Ramakrishnan said. "We can absorb new information rapidly, building on past experiences and knowledge in a flexible, adaptive way."

This ability to continuously improve on prior lessons without extensive reprogramming gives humans a significant edge in dynamic environments where new information and challenges emerge constantly.

Humans are also remarkably good at "transfer learning." "We can apply knowledge and skills from one context to entirely different, unfamiliar scenarios with relative ease," Ramakrishnan said. This ability to generalise is still a significant challenge for machines and artificial networks, which are typically confined to narrow domains and struggle to adapt to new or unforeseen contexts without retraining.

The communication between neurons in the human brain takes the form of biochemical processes that operate more slowly than the channels between neurons in artificial neural networks, according to Brigitte Röder, professor of biological psychology and neuropsychology at the University of Hamburg. Yet the human brain makes decisions stunningly fast using abstractions and generalisation whereas machines still struggle to do this.

Dhawale used the example of chess. "If you are proficient at chess, this ability will likely extend to other board games like checkers. This means humans can learn the structure underlying a task and generalise it to quickly solve new tasks – that is, they can learn to learn," he said.

Researchers are now attempting to bring this paradigm to machine learning, an approach called meta learning. It's not unlikely that machines will catch up here as well.

Humans also excel at motor-skill learning. "Somehow humans and animals are very efficient at learning how to move," according to Dhawale, "but we don't know exactly why this is the case."

Neural networks are great at navigating tasks involving discrete choices, but they stumble with movement. One reason is because being able to make a simple motion, such as reaching for a fruit on a table, requires a learning agent to optimise for many independent parameters varying continuously across many degrees of freedom.

Then there's energy efficiency. According to Ramakrishnan, the human brain's low power consumption becomes readily apparent when recognising patterns, making decisions, and conducting social interactions. Machines can operate very fast, but their energy consumption is also much higher, especially when they process large datasets.

Where machines excel

However, machines are more reliable.

Unlike machines, which are built for repeatability and can perform the same task again with consistent precision, humans contend with fatigue, emotional decision-making, and distractions.

"While we are designed to operate in volatile, ever-changing environments and our ability to explore and adapt is one of our greatest strengths, this flexibility often comes at the cost of consistency," Ramakrishnan said.

In contrast to the brain, neural network models are often trained to search exhaustively for solutions to complex tasks, Dhawale explained. This means they are more likely to discover new, better solutions to problems than humans can. At games like chess and Go, AI models have been known to develop moves that surprise even expert players.

"One could argue that the strategies used by humans to learn may be more efficient but can't discover the most optimal solutions because they are not designed to search exhaustively."

From artificial to human

The differences between human and machine learning could elucidate where the neural network of each brain – artificial or biological – falls short.

"Neurons are often treated simplistically as point processes that communicate via electrical impulses, essentially operating in an on/off mode," Ramakrishnan said. "This reductionist approach has nonetheless allowed us to uncover fundamental principles that underlie complex cognitive behaviours."

> A child with an apple is very different from Google Photos labelling an apple. A child's experience is sensory. They are feeling and seeing. The data people are getting is richer. There are tons of correlations you can use in order to leverage things like learning and generalisation

At its core is the idea that feedback loops drive learning. Researchers used it to develop reinforcement learning, a training algorithm that has also been remarkably successful at explaining how organisms update their knowledge and adapt based on their experiences, according to Ramakrishnan.

The development of artificial neural networks has also expanded our understanding of how memories could be stored and accessed in the brain: as dynamic processes that can be activated and adjusted over time rather than remain preserved in particular areas.

Artificial neural networks with this ability can perform better. "The development of algorithms that handle short-term and long-term memory processes in artificial networks has provided us with a deeper understanding of how the brain may operate in these domains," Ramakrishnan said.

More broadly, AI models' successes in the real world have prompted neuroscientists and cognitive scientists to revisit ideas of how the human brain learns. For some time since the mid-20th century, scientists assumed the brain represented information about the world in a symbolic manner and that its many abilities – perception, planning, reasoning, etc. – were achieved through symbolic operations.

Many early attempts at building AI models thus used approaches. One well-known application was expert systems, models capable of complex reasoning as a series of if-then problems.

On the other hand, contemporary neural networks operate connectionist models, named for the weighted connections between the nodes in a network. These models begin with a blank slate and use pattern recognition techniques to achieve their primary goals: say, to accurately predict the next word in an unfinished sentence.

"The question, therefore, is what type of AI – symbolic or connectionist – is the better model for human learning," Dhawale said. "Despite the success of neural network AI models, I still think they learn in a very different way from how humans learn."

(T.V. Padma is a science journalist in New Delhi. tvpadma_10@yahoo.co.in)

A city-sized rock hurtles towards the earth's surface, releasing shock waves. Representative illustration. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

An asteroid might hit earth. How worried should we be?

Agence France-Presse

A colossal explosion in the sky, unleashing energy hundreds of times greater than the Hiroshima bomb. A blinding flash nearly as bright as the sun. Shockwaves powerful enough to flatten everything for leagues.

It may sound apocalyptic, but a newly detected asteroid nearly the size of a football field now has a greater than 1% chance of colliding with the earth in about eight years.

Such an impact has the potential for city-level devastation, depending on where it strikes.

Scientists aren't panicking yet, but they are watching closely.

Dubbed 2024 YR4, the asteroid was first spotted on December 27, 2024, by the El Sauce Observatory in Chile. Based on its brightness, astronomers estimate it is 40-90 m wide.

By New Year's Eve, it had landed on the desk of Kelly Fast, acting planetary defense officer at US space agency NASA, as an object of concern.

The risk assessment kept climbing, and on January 29, the International Asteroid Warning Network (IAWN), a global planetary defense collaboration, issued a memo.

According to the latest calculations from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, there is a 1.6% chance the asteroid will strike the earth on December 22, 2032.

If it does hit, possible impact sites include over the eastern Pacific Ocean, northern South America, the Atlantic Ocean, Africa, the Arabian Sea, and South Asia, the IAWN memo states.

2024 YR4 follows a highly elliptical, four-year orbit, swinging through the inner planets before shooting past Mars and out toward Jupiter.

The 1908 Tunguska Event provides the most likely comparison. An asteroid or comet fragment exploded over Siberia, flattening some 80 million trees across 2,000 sq. km

For now, it's zooming away from the earth. Its next close pass will not come until 2028.

"The odds are very good that not only will this not hit earth, but at some point in the next months to few years, that probability will go to zero," said Bruce Betts, chief scientist of The Planetary Society.

A similar scenario unfolded in 2004 with Apophis, an asteroid initially projected to have a 2.7% chance of striking Earth in 2029. Further observations ruled out an impact.

The most infamous asteroid impact occurred 66 million years ago, when a nine-kilometre-wide space rock triggered a global winter, wiping out the dinosaurs and 75% of all species.

By contrast, 2024 YR4 falls into the "city killer" category.

"If you put it over Paris or London or New York, you basically wipe out the whole city and some of the environs," said Betts.

The best modern comparison is the 1908 Tunguska Event, when an asteroid or comet fragment measuring 30-50 metres exploded over Siberia, flattening 80 million trees across 2,000 sq. km.

Like that impactor, 2024 YR4 would be expected to blow up in the sky, rather than leaving a crater on the ground.

For 2024 YR4, the explosion from an airburst would exceed 500-times the power of the Hiroshima bomb.

If it explodes over the ocean, the impact would be less concerning, unless it happens near a coastline triggering a tsunami.The good news, experts stress, is that we have plenty of time to prepare.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Man kills wife, tries to hush it up, arrested

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 43-year-old lecturer, Chethana, was strangled to death by her husband over a domestic row and the accused allegedly tried to make it look like suicide to conceal the crime at their house in Malleswaram 16th Cross on Monday.

He later carried her body to the hospital complaining she was unwell and attempted suicide where the doctor declared her "brought dead". The doctor who examined her body found scratch marks around her neck and alerted the police. The police rushed to the spot and detained the accused identified as Sharath Uttangi. During questioning, he reportedly confessed to the crime.

The police also confirmed that she was killed due to strangulation through the autopsy report and arrested Sharath. The deceased Chethana and Sharath were married for 15 years.

Probe revealed that the couple had a financial problems and used to fight frequently over the issue. On Monday the couple had a fight following which Sharath strangled her to death and tried to portray it as a case of suicide.

PNB Home Loan Expo

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Punjab National Bank (PNB) is hosting its Home Loan Expo on February 7 and 8 at the Chandra Sagara Kalyana Mantapa in Jayanagar, near Ashoka Pillar.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, FEB. 06	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:22
RISE 12:37	SET 00:56
FRIDAY, FEB. 07	
RISE 06:45	SET 18:23
RISE 13:33	SET 01:58
SATURDAY, FEB. 08	
RISE 06:44	SET 18:23
RISE 14:31	SET 02:59

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	21
Mysuru	33	13
Bengaluru	32	17

Bengaluru Today
32°C Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be slight cool. Mostly dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
32°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be little warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Registration window closes-February 25, 2025
Entrance Test- March 2, 2025
Online classes will start from March 27, 2025

More details about the program can be found on the website: https://cscl.iiti.ac.in
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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Death toll from Sweden's worst mass shooting

11 Sweden's worst mass shooting has left at least 11 people dead and five seriously wounded, including the gunman at an adult education centre. The gunman's motive hadn't been determined by early Wednesday as the Scandinavian nation reeled from an attack with such bloodshed. AP

MPs elected to Aligarh Muslim University Court

7 Seven MPs, including four BJP legislators, have been elected as members of the Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) Court, according to a notification issued on Wednesday. The MPs have been elected for a period of three years, until December 23, 2027, or "until the end of their term as a Member of Parliament," whichever comes first. PTI

Number of AC electric buses to be added in Thane this year

100 As many as 100 AC electric buses will be added to the fleet of the Thane Municipal Transport in April this year. The buses will be provided under the PM E-Bus Service scheme. Thane's population is increasing rapidly, and the city needs more buses, the release from local MP Naresh Mhaske's office said. PTI

Voter turnout recorded in Milkipur Assembly bypolls

65 in per cent. More than 65% of the total 3.70 lakh voters exercised their franchise in the bypolls to the Milkipur Assembly constituency of Uttar Pradesh on Wednesday, surpassing the turnout recorded in the 2022 Assembly polls. The voting began at 7 a.m. and continued till 5 p.m., officials said. PTI

Russia, Ukraine exchange prisoners of war

300 Russia and Ukraine each released 150 captured soldiers in their latest prisoner-of-war exchange, both sides said on Wednesday. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said some of those returned had been in Russian captivity for "more than two years". PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

What is the SC directive on sacred groves?

What are the implications of the December 18 order? What did *T.N. Godavarman v. Union of India* establish about the definition of 'forest land'? How are sacred groves traditionally conserved by communities?

EXPLAINER

C.R. Bijoy

Sacred heritage: Sacred groves are community-regulated and conserved patches of forest land. THULASI KAKKAT

THE GIST

- The Supreme Court ordered the Rajasthan Forest Department to map and classify sacred groves as 'forests' and 'community reserves' under the Wildlife Protection Act.
- This order shifts control of sacred groves from community-based management to the Forest Department.
- The decision conflicts with the Forest Rights Act, which recognises community rights over forest resources.
- The shift in control from community protection to Forest Department management could undermine the traditional governance of these areas.

The story so far:

On December 18, 2024, the Supreme Court directed the Forest Department of Rajasthan to map on the ground and via satellite every 'sacred grove' in detail. They were to be identified irrespective of their size and based "solely on their purpose and their cultural and ecological significance to the local community". After mapping, the court directed the department to classify them as 'forests' and notify them as 'community reserves' under the Wildlife Protection Act (WLPA) 1972. Effectively, the decision would transfer the sacred groves from community protection to forest officialdom for the purposes of conservation. The move defies the Forest Rights Act (FRA) 2006, which by virtue of being enacted later overrides the WLPA, and which the government had intended to do the reverse: i.e. recognise traditional and customary rights over all forest lands and transfer them back from the Forest Department to gram sabhas.

The sacred groves of Rajasthan, also known as 'orans', 'malvan', 'deo ghat', and 'baugh', number around 25,000 and cover about six lakh hectares of the State.

What was the case about?

In *T.N. Godavarman v. Union of India*, the Supreme Court ordered that 'forest land' in Section 2 of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, "will not only include 'forest' as understood in the dictionary sense, but also any area recorded as forest in the government record irrespective of the ownership of the land". The court then directed State governments to constitute expert committees to identify areas that met this understanding of 'forest land'.

In 2004, the expert committee report of the Rajasthan government identified only those sacred groves that fulfilled the criteria of 'deemed forests' – that is, trees covering 5 hectares of land with at least 200 trees per hectare were classified as 'forests', while the remainder was not.

The Supreme Court's Central Empowered Committee (CEC) disagreed with this choice because it was inconsistent with the court's definition of 'forest land'. The CEC also said all such areas diverted for non-forestry purposes before 1980 could be exempted. The apex court agreed with the CEC and directed Rajasthan to implement the recommendations post-haste in 2018.

In early 2024, the Rajasthan government – responding to interlocutory applications seeking directions to implement this order – said that sacred groves were being identified and documented as 'forest lands'. Ironically, the Rajasthan Forest Policy 2023 omitted the detailed framework for the protection of sacred groves specified in its 2010 policy.

The present order came in response to a challenge to these positions at the Supreme Court.

What do sacred groves mean to communities?

Sacred groves are community-regulated and conserved patches of forest land. They are created and managed traditionally by communities in various ways deeply rooted in their identity. The groves are kept inviolate through customary laws and taboos, many of which completely prohibit the extraction of any resources in any form, except for custodians to access medicinal plants. The grove's conservation ethos is strongly linked to piety and sanctity, enforced in terms of the community's relationship with its spirits and gods.

India is estimated to have 1-10 lakh sacred groves of this nature – the highest in the world. They are called '*devara kadu*' in Karnataka, '*devban*' in Himachal Pradesh, '*kavu*' and '*sarpa kavu*' in Kerala, '*sarna*' in the Chota Nagpur Plateau region, '*devbani*' in Chhattisgarh, '*jahera*' or '*thakuramma*' in Odisha, '*devgudi*' by the Muria, the Madia, and the Gond adivasis of Maharashtra and Chhattisgarh, '*ki law lyngdoh*', '*ki law kyntang*' or '*ki law niam*' in Meghalaya, '*sabarkantha*', '*dahod*' or '*banaskantha*' in Gujarat, and so forth.

They are often associated with temples, monasteries, shrines, pilgrim sites, and/or burial grounds. These sites are thus also repositories of various herbal medicines and gathering points for local healers, as much as they are biodiversity hotspots. They are also, frequently, sources of perennial streams that support the growth of unique and endemic flora and fauna.

Local legends, myths, and beliefs surround sacred groves, and communities have transmitted them orally through several generations as a matter of conserving their cultural identities. Communities' relationships with their groves have also helped mitigate the effects of floods, landslides, and droughts on their lives while stabilising the soil and preventing erosion. Anthropologists have also documented the impact of sacred groves on their respective communities' mental and physical well-being.

What are community reserves?

The WLPA 2002 introduced the category of Protected Areas called 'community reserves', in addition to 'national parks' and 'sanctuaries'.

Community reserves are notified over community or private land where locals have volunteered to conserve habitats to protect "fauna, flora, and traditional or cultural conservation values and practises".

The community, or even the individual, is thus required to prevent any offences specified in the WLPA, assist the authorities in arresting any offenders, report the "death of any wild animal," and prevent or extinguish any fires. The offences include damaging the boundary marks, teasing or molesting wild animals, littering in the community reserve, setting fires or allowing a fire to burn, and using any chemical substances that endanger wildlife.

Further, a land-use pattern within a community reserve cannot be changed without the approval of the reserve management committee and the State government. The Chief Wildlife Warden, under whose jurisdiction community reserves fall, effectively has overall control of the reserve and its management plan.

The Supreme Court's directions also obligate the State government to constitute a 'Community Reserve Management Committee' to conserve, maintain, and manage the reserve and to protect wildlife and habitats. This committee is to have at least five members nominated by the gram panchayat (or members of the gram sabha if there is no gram panchayat) and a representative of the Forest or Wildlife Department in whose jurisdiction the community reserve is located. If the reserve is on private land, the committee will consist of the land owner, a representative of the Forest or Wildlife Department, and a representative of the concerned Panchayat or tribal community.

The elected chairperson of the committee will be designated the reserve's 'Honorary Wildlife Warden'.

The court also recommended that the Union Environment Ministry identify and map sacred groves nationwide and formulate a policy for their governance and management.

How will the Forest Department's takeover clash with the FRA's provisions?

If sacred groves had fallen under the FRA's purview, they would have been part of 'community forest resources'. According to the FRA, a community forest resource is the "customary common forest land within the traditional or customary boundaries of the village... including reserved forests, protected forests and protected areas such as sanctuaries and national parks to which the community had traditional access".

Thus, the gram sabhas would have been the statutory authority to protect, regenerate, conserve or manage community forest resources, along with the wildlife, flora, and biodiversity within. The gram sabhas would also have been responsible for preventing activities that harm their cultural and natural heritage.

To this end, the sabha would have to constitute its own Community Forest Resource Management Committees to develop and execute the managed plan approved by the gram sabha. And State governments would be duty-bound to support these plans.

All sacred groves in forest areas are currently subsets of community forest resources, which are in turn under the jurisdiction of gram sabhas, and not the Forest or the Wildlife department. All sacred groves outside forest land, if any, also come under the FRA's purview if a proposal to notify them as 'forest land' comes into being. In sum, notifying sacred groves as community reserves controlled by the Forest Department could conflict with the customs of communities, and with the community forest resources notified by the FRA, which complies with the customs by bringing them under its governance.

C.R. Bijoy examines natural resource conflicts and governance issues

NRIs struggle as e-khata website shows '404 error' in U.K., U.S.

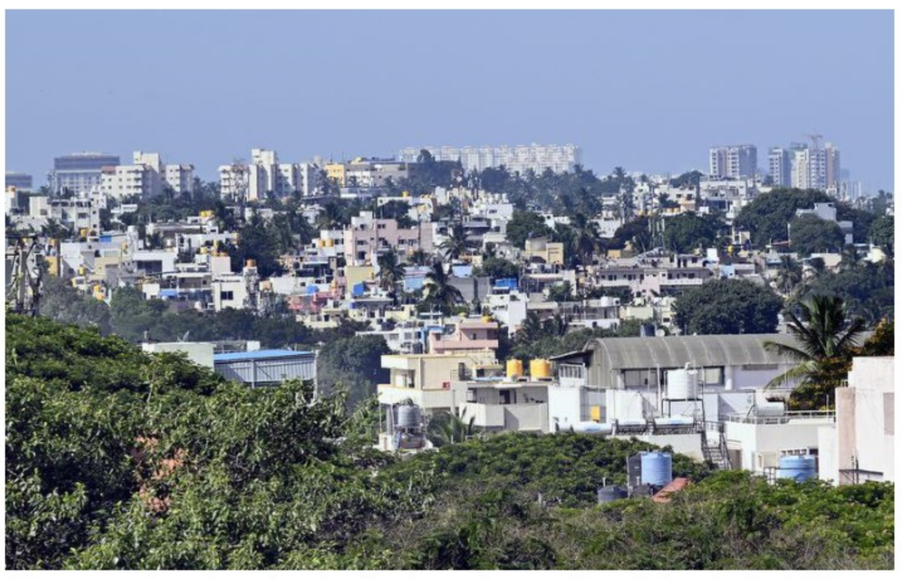
Website for applying for the digital document refuses to load in these countries; the error happens when the server cannot find the webpage or the file someone is trying to access

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Non-resident Indian (NRI) property owners from Bengaluru, residing in the United Kingdom (U.K.) and the United States of America (U.S.), are struggling to secure e-khata as the website for applying for the digital document refuses to load in these countries.

E-khata was made mandatory for registration of properties across Karnataka from October 1, 2024.

Many complained of getting the '404 error' message upon clicking the link of the website (https://bbmpeaasthi.karnataka.gov.in/). In the description, it says, "The origin server did not find a current representation for the target resource or is not willing to disclose the one that exists."


E-khata was made mandatory for registration of properties across Karnataka from October 1, 2024. FILE PHOTO

A '404 error' happens when the web server cannot find the webpage or file someone is trying to access. This could be because the resource does not exist on the server or the server is configured to hide its location.

> The e-Governance Department, as a rule, bars all outside access as a feature of cybersecurity. The BBMP has to request the department to grant access to the site to individual countries. We have given a list of countries that need to be whitelisted.
>
> **MUNISH MOUDGIL,** BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue)

Debojyoti Bhattacharya, 43, a property owner who lives in Cambridge, U.K., has been struggling to secure the e-khata since November. Lamenting the struggle, Mr. Bhattacharya said it took about one-and-a-half months for the BBMP to upload his draft khata. "I was bemused to see a 404 error when I first opened the site. Initially, I presumed the error was temporary due to server issues, but later found out that the site does not operate in the U.K.," he said.

Mr. Bhattacharya was forced to rely upon a friend to open the site in Bengaluru and coordinate with the BBMP. His friend found out that the draft khata is unavailable on the website. This means his property records were not digitised. Mr. Bhattacharya later was directed to the Assistant Revenue Officer (ARO) but to no avail.

However, when his problem was brought to the notice of a senior BBMP official, his record was immediately digitised and the draft was made available. His friend in India said that now the system is showing issues with the KYC. "Now I have to brace for another uphill task. It's a shame to know that India's' Silicon Valley's government website does not open in the U.K."

Prithvik Aniket, who runs a real estate company, said that three of his clients were unable to sell their properties due to the same problem. "The BBMP has to rectify the problem and make the site work in the U.K., U.S., and European countries," he added.

BBMP Special Commissioner (Revenue), Munish Moudgil, while talking to *The Hindu*, said, "The problem is to be handled at the e-Governance department. I will immediately take up this issue with the department. The BBMP will also try to handhold the property owners to secure e-khata."

"The e-Governance Department, as a rule, bars all outside access as a feature of cybersecurity. The BBMP has to request the department to grant access to the site to individual countries. We have given a list of countries that need to be whitelisted," he said.

Hemansu, Mayank continue win streak in *The Hindu* Young World Quiz

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Mayank G. Mattur and Hemansu V.M., the duo from Sri Kumaran Public School, who were the title winners in the Junior category in 2024, became the winners in the Senior category this year at *The Hindu* Young World Quiz which was held at Chowdiah Memorial Hall on Wednesday.

"This is a very memorable victory for us. This time, we had the expectation of defending our championship, so we had to live up to it. Like Rafael Nadal, the tennis player, once said–that the second time was the toughest," the duo shared with excitement.

Hemansu V.M. and Mayank G. Mattuturu, winners in the senior category, and Medhansh N.M. and Arya S.K., who emerged as toppers in the junior category, with Pradeep Nair, Deputy General Manager, SBI, at T. Chowdiah Memorial Hall in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Two categories

The quiz, presented by State Bank of India, was open for school students in two categories; junior (class 4-6) and senior (class 7-9). More than 800 teams from the two categories participated in the quiz hosted by quizmaster V.V. Ramanan.

The team of Gautam K. and Arya R. Jannu from BNM Public School and Shreyan Chhetri and Sai Srinivas N.S. from Delhi Public School took the first and second runners-up positions, in the senior category followed by the teams from National Public School, The Samhita Academy and Sishu Griha taking the fourth, fifth and sixth positions respectively.

Arya S.K. and Medhansh N.M. from Presidency School, Nandini Layout were the winners in the Junior category.

"The prelims were tough. At the last moment, we won," they said. Gian M. and Srivatsa Sundararajan from Airaa Academy were the first runners up followed by Aryesh Mukherjee and Shervesh Mohan from Sri Kumaran's CBSE becoming the second runners up.

The teams from Sherwood High, The Samhita Academy, and Jaigopal Garodia Rashtratthana Vidya Kendra took the fourth, fifth and sixth positions respectively.

Pradeep Nair, Deputy General Manager (B&O), State Bank of India, distributed the prizes to the winners and said, "I would like to express my gratitude to *The Hindu* Group for its long-standing association with this quiz over the years. We are committed to maintaining this partnership and look forward to many more years of collaboration."

Governor lauds NCC cadets for R-Day show

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot lauded the National Cadet Corps (NCC) from the Karnataka and Goa Directorate for their outstanding participation in the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.

Speaking at a felicitation ceremony, the Governor emphasised the vital role of the NCC in shaping the youth. "The NCC aims to create a group of organized, trained, and motivated youth with leadership qualities in all walks of life," he remarked.

Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team to radiate city skies again during Aero India

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

From the graceful loop and the thrilling barrel roll to the gravity-defying inverted flying and the crowd-favourite DNA manoeuvre, the Surya Kiran Aerobatic Team (SKAT) will once again enthrall visitors at the upcoming Aero India 2025, which is being held at the Air Force Station Yelahanka from February 10 to 14.

The SKAT team who will be flying the striking red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets have recently integrated smoke pods to the aircraft which can produce colored smoke.

"The recent integration of smoke pods with the Hawk Mk 132 aircraft, capable of producing colored smoke, is a significant indigenous modification developed in India at an IAF's Base and allows the team to display the three colors of the national flag across the sky during their aerial performances," the Ministry of Defence said on Wednesday.

The SKAT, which will be flying the red-and-white Hawk Mk-132 jets, recently integrated smoke pods to the aircraft. FILE PHOTO

It added that this enhancement not only adds visual impact to the displays but also serves as a powerful symbol of national pride, celebrating India's achievements in aerospace engineering and innovation.

Established in 1996, SKAT holds the coveted title of being the only nine-aircraft aerobatic team in Asia, and is one of the few elite aerobatic teams in the world.

This team has performed over 700 displays across India, while also representing the professionalism of the IAF at international air shows in countries such as China, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, and the UAE.

The Surya Kiran team comprises nine Hawk Mk 132 aircraft licensed in India flying in extremely close proximity at a distance of less than 5 meters. There are 14 pilots in the team. The team leader is Group Captain Ajay Dasarathi, a Su-30 MKI pilot. The Deputy Leader is Group Captain Sidhesh Kartik.

The pilots undergo intensive training to master complex aerobatic manoeuvres, with their expertise and flawless coordination forming the foundation of the close formation flying.

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
(Construction Organisation)
E-Tender Notice No. 19-CECNMS-2025-E-506100
Dated : 30.01.2025

For and on behalf of The President of India, The Chief Engineer, Construction, Southern Railway, Egmore, Chennai - 600 008 invites e-tender for the following work(s) as per Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) in our portal **www.ireps.gov.in.** The tenderers/Contractors intending to apply for the tender needs to get enrolled in the portal **www.ireps.gov.in** and only **ONLINE** tenders wil be accepted.

Name of the work
(1) Virudhachalam - Salem Section - Proposed Construction of 1 x 20.108 m clear span Composite Girder Road Over Bridge in lieu of existing level Crossing No. 185 at Km. 190/400-500 between Salem town and Salem Market stations (2) Virudhachalam - Salem Section - Proposed Limited Use Subway of size : 1 x 4.50 m x 2.75 m with already cast precast RCC Box segments in lieu of existing Level Crossing No. 183 at Km 189/500-600 between Ayodhiyapattinam and Salem town stations.

Cash value (Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	Period of completion (Months)	Closing date @ 15.30 hrs
56144375.78	430700.00	12	21.02.2025

For further details, please refer to website portal **www.ireps.gov.in** or contact office of the Chief Administrative Officer, Construction, E.V.R. High Road, Egmore, Chennai - 600008

for Chief Engineer, (Construction), Egmore, Chennai - 600 008.
for and On behalf of President of India

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 03/2025 Date: 03.02.2025
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders through IREPS only for supply of following items: **Tender Closing Time : 10:30 Hrs.**

Sl.	Tender No.	Description in Brief	Qty	Tender Due on
01	33241403B	Must Change Kit M36 for Disc Brake System	34 Sets	13.02.2025
02	30241274	Gravity cock 1/2-inch Chrome Plated	60291 Nos.	18.02.2025
03	45251262	4.5kw Brushless alternator	64 Set	18.02.2025
04	33251030	Secondary lateral damper for Fiat Bogie	330 Nos	20.02.2025
05	47245007	Single Phase ONAN/ONAF type Traction Power Transformer	2 Nos.	20.02.2025
06	46245001	Uninsulated Cadmium Copper Catenary Wire 65 Sq.mm.	21000 Mtr	21.02.2025
07	45251164	25 kw Alternator complete with V-grooved pulley	13 Set	24.02.2025
08	60245691B	Procurement of various types of Turnout Sleepers	367 Set	24.02.2025
09	45251078	Set of 120 AH Valve Regulated Lead Acid Batteries	790 Set	24.02.2025
10	38251113	Flap Door BOXN, BOXNHS	970 Nos.	24.02.2025
11	45251261	1100 AH Valve Regulated Lead Acid Battery	69 Set	25.02.2025
12	38241052A	Distributor Valve for BLC Wagons	227 Nos.	26.02.2025
13	45241284A	Emergency LED Lighting System	2520 Nos.	26.02.2025
14	80241082	Servoplex SHC-120 (IOCL) Grease for Traction Motor Bearing	7175 Kgs	03.03.2025
15	33245008	Set of Speed Sensor, Dump Valve, JZP Card & CPU Card	80 Nos.	03.03.2025
16	60246068C	Procurement of Special Sleepers to Drawings T-6068 & T-4088	1436 Sets	03.03.2025
17	60244218D	Procurement of Isolated Sleepers to Drawings T-4218 & T-4865	3945 Running Mtr.	03.03.2025
18	33251032	Secondary vertical damper for LHB AC coaches	1070 Nos	04.03.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
PUB/761/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25 **Principal Chief Materials Manager, Hubballi**
South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

MAHA-KUMBH-MELA 2025
(Incident dated 29.01.2025)
Three Member Judicial Enquiry Commission
Public Notice **Date-05.02.2025**

Under rule 5(2)(b) of commission of Inquiry Act (Uttar Pradesh) rules,1985

Whereas a 03-member Judicial Inquiry Commission headed by Justice Harsh Kumar (Former Judge, Hon'ble High Court, Allahabad) has been constituted by the Government of Uttar Pradesh vide Notification No.-02/6-Pu0-11-2025-01M/2025 dated 29th January, 2025.

That as per the reference in the said notification, the Commission has to conduct an inquiry in public interest in respect of the stampede incident that did take place in the Kumbh-Mela (fair) area during Mauni Amavasya at Mahakumbh, Prayagraj on 29.01.2025 resulting in death and injuries to some of the devotees.

Therefore, this Commission invites statements, preferably affidavits, from all persons who are aware of the facts and circumstances of the above subject, regarding the stampede incident that took place in the Kumbh Mela area on 29th January, 2025.

The above statements (in duplicate) may be submitted/sent to the office of this Commission (at the address given below) in person or through an authorized representative or by registered post/email within 10 days from the date of publication between 12:00 noon and 4:30 pm or any working day or may also be sent on the e-mail of this Commission given below.

Address of Office
Room No. 108 **(Secretary)**
1st Floor, Vikas Bhawan, Janpath, **Judicial Inquiry Commission**
Hazratganj, Lucknow (U.P.) 226001
Email id- mahakumbhcommission@gmail.com
Tel. No.- 0522-2613568

UPID RO: 228195 **RO Dt: 05/02/2025** **Website: www.up.gov.in**

PUBLIC NOTICE
My client proposes to purchase the Schedule Property from **1. Smt.Gowramma,** W/o. Late. Krishnappa @ Muniyappa, Aged about 88 years, and her children namely, **2. Sri.Sathish. K.M,** Aged about 62 years, **3. Sri.Muniraju.K.M**, Aged about 60 years, **4. Sri.Ramesh. K.M,** Aged about 53 years, **5. Sri.Jagannath. K.M.,** Aged about 48 years, **6. Smt.Meenakshi,** Aged about 45 years and their respective family members, all residing at Kolipura Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore District.
Any person/s having any manner of claims/objections for the proposed purchase may lodge their claims/ objections with the undersigned, with documentary evidence within Ten (10) days from the date of this publication. Any claims/ objections received thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client will proceed to purchase the Schedule Property as if there are no claims/ objections.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that piece and parcel of the Land bearing old Sy.No.71/1, New Sy.No.71/3 measuring 0 Acre 32 Guntas, situated at Doddajala Amanikere Village, Jala -1 Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District, and bounded on the: **East by :** Land bearing Sy.No.71/1, **West by :** Land bearing Sy.No.71/4; **North by:** Land bearing Sy. No. 68 and **South by:** Rajakaluve.
Y.S.H.REDDY, Advocate
No.503, 1st Floor, Sai Leela Suites, 1st Main, 7th Cross, H.M.T.Layout, Parallel to 80 Feet Road, R.T.Nagar, Bengaluru- 560 032.
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, SWATHI Ganesh Pallavoor, D/O: Viswanath Kesapuram, R/O: No–26/27, 1st Floor, 23rd Cross, Maruthinagar, Yelahanka, Bengaluru–560064. Have Changed my Name to Swathi Kesapuram, Affidavit date on 05/02/25.

I, MARY Devraj, w/o Devraj Gnana Pragasam, r/at No.89, Lakshmi Nilaya, L.R.Nagar Road, Opp.Infant Jesus Church, Vivekanagar, Bangalore 560047 have changed my name as Jackline Joseph vide affidavit dtd 05.02.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Blore

I, FATHIMA Ahmed Sait w/o Ahmed Yacoob Sait residing at No.40/3, Viviani Road, Frazer Town, Bengaluru-570005 have changed my name to Fathima Ahmed vide affidavi dated 04-02-2025 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, ABDUL Saleem S/o Syed Hasham Sab residing at No.1053, Hunasinakere Layout, Sunnada Gudu, Hassan-573201 have changed my name to Syed Dastagir vide affidavi dated 04-02-2025 before Meer Hassan Notary Bengaluru.

I, ASHALATHA W/o Ravi Kolarkar R/at No.09, 2nd Cross, JSS School Road, Teachers Colony, Konanakunte, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560062 have declare that the three names of Bapuram Ashalatha, Ashalatha Bapuram and B.Ashalatha belongs to me, one and the same person vide affidavit dated 04-02-2025 sworn before Vani.G.K, Bengaluru.

I, RAVI Kolarkar S/o Ganapathi Rao, R/at No.09, 2nd Cross, JSS School Road, Teachers Colony, Konanakunte, Bengaluru South, Bengaluru-560062 have declare that the three names of Ravi, Ravi Kolarkar and Kolarkar Ravi belongs to me, one and the same person vide affidavit dated 04-02-2025 sworn before Notary Vani.G.K, B'luru.

REAL ESTATE

3bhk flat 2014 west for sale 1340 sqft @Rs9k HSR 7th sect Hosapalya No agents 9441124742.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, PALANIYAMMA LR is legally wedded wife of Service No. 14674946P, Rank: NK Name: N Madhu resident of No. 4/171, Gundukal Nager, Pappinayakkanhalli Palacode TK, Dharmapuri District, Tamil Nadu 636808 changed my name from Palaniyammal LR to Palaniyammal Madhu vide affidavit dated 12-12-2024 before Tahsildar Palacode.

SITUATION VACANT
GENERAL

CHENNAI PORT AUTHORITY
No.1, RAJAJI SALAI, CHENNAI – 600001
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT

VACANCY NOTICE
File No.RC2/5629/2022/GA
Dated: 06.02.2025

Chennai Port Authority, an autonomous body under the Government of India, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, invites applications for filling up of the following

Class I vacancies in Marine Department:

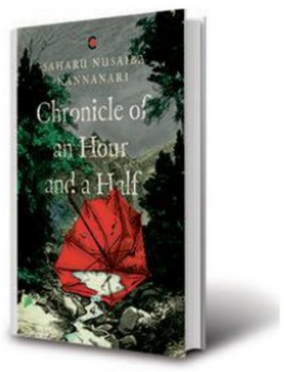
Sl. No.	Name of the post	No.of vacancies	Scale of pay (Rs.)
1.	Marine Engineer	1 (UR)	70000 – 200000
2.	Deputy Marine Engineer	1(SC)	50000 - 160000

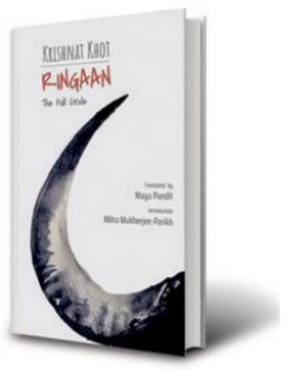
Eligible candidates have to apply through "Online Application Portal" (OAP) of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **http://onlinevacancy.shipmin.nic.in**
For further details, visit Chennai Port Authority's Website viz., **www.chennaiport.gov.in.** Last date for receipt of applications is 05.03.2025. Eligible Candidates applied will be selected for the above posts based on overall performance in the interview and / or written test.
Chennai – 600 001. Secretary

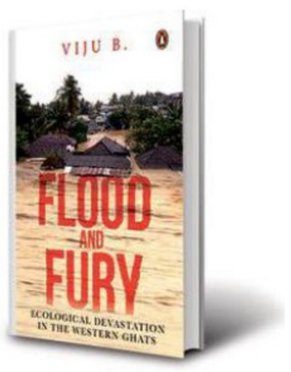
TENDERS

TENDER NOTICE: National E-Governance Services Ltd; Tender is invited for Appointment of Consultant for review of the existing Risk Management Policy and implementation of Enterprise Risk Management (ERM) Framework. For details please visit https://www.nesl.co.in/tenders/

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Shifting landscapes: What was once a symphony of chirping birds is now being gradually replaced by the relentless roar of heavy machinery in many places. GETTY IMAGES

Western Ghats: a living archive of culture, memory, and resilience

Through old and contemporary works, writers have sought to capture the alarming changes sweeping through the Sahyadri; they serve as a wake-up call to save the ecosystem, scarred by encroachment, displacement of tribal people, and skewed policies, from further ruin

K.S. Swati

The Western Ghats, also known as the Sahyadri, meaning benevolent mountains, stretches along the western coast of the Indian peninsula, spanning six States: Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu. Known as one of the world's most biodiverse regions, the Western Ghats were once celebrated for their breathtaking natural beauty – cascading waterfalls, lush greenery, and a dazzling array of flora and fauna. Today, however, this idyllic landscape faces a stark transformation. Climate change, deforestation, the decline of traditional livelihoods, land encroachment, and the displacement of tribal communities have left the region in peril.

For years, writers in various regional languages have sought to capture and preserve the narrative of these alarming changes, believing in the transformative power of words. What was once a symphony of chirping birds is now being gradually replaced by the relentless roar of heavy machinery in many places.

The novella, *Chronicle of an Hour and a Half*, by Saharu Nusaiba Kannanari, which was shortlisted for the JCB Prize for Literature 2024, explores powerful themes such as the effects of rumours, mob mentality, social media – and nature, especially, relentless rain – hinting that something ominous awaits. Set against a fictional village in the foothills of the Western Ghats, the novella, which begins as a harmless exchange between two individuals, spirals into chaos through social media. Within an hour, the community descends into mass hysteria. In the background, nature reflects the emotions of the community, mirroring the escalating tension and chaos.

The inter-personal relationship between humans and nature is poignantly highlighted in Kuvempu's *Malegalalli Madumagalu* (1967), translated by Vanamala Viswanatha as *Bride of the Hills* (2024). Set in the Malnad region in the Western Ghats, where people are closely tied to the land, relying on its fertile soil, forests, and rivers for their livelihood, nature is revered not only for its practical role in sustenance but also for its spiritual significance, with rituals and local deities tied to agricultural cycles. Yet the novel reflects the growing tension between traditional harmony with nature and the pressures of modernisation and exploitation.

An exploitative cycle

Development, coupled with human greed, makes the lives of tribal communities difficult. In *Kocharethi: The Araya Woman* written by Narayan in Malayalam, which won the Kerala Sahitya Academy Award in 1998 and was translated into English by Catherine Thankamma in 2011, the theme of exploitation and marginalisation is vividly portrayed through the struggles of the Adivasi community. As industrial development, moneylenders, and land grabbers encroach on their ancestral territories, people are pushed into deeper poverty and displacement. The novel focuses on how outside forces often exploit the land's natural resources, disregarding the community's cultural and spiritual connection to it.

In *Ringaan*, written in Marathi by Krushnat Khot, who won the Sahitya Academy Award in Marathi in 2023, and translated into English by Maya Pandit, the protagonist, uprooted from his village, returns home to rescue a buffalo. He reminisces about his childhood and the harmonious life he once lived. The book highlights important aspects of migration, struggles of displaced victims when large-scale development projects are carried out, and the persistent man-animal conflict.

Loss of traditional occupations

Rampant quarrying, deforestation, illegal mining, and poorly planned construction projects have destabilised the fragile ecosystem. Through meticulous reporting, accounts from affected individuals, interviews, and a critical examination of policies, B. Viju's *Flood and Fury: Ecological Devastation in the Western Ghats* (2019) connects these activities to increased occurrences of landslides, floods, and soil erosion. The book delves into the historical and cultural significance of the Western Ghats while critiquing the apathy of governments, corporations, and society toward environmental conservation.

The Nilgiri Hills – A Kaleidoscope of People, Culture and Nature (2023) by Paul Hockings brings together stories and articles from writers, scholars, such as ecologists, filmmakers, local writers, etc to highlight various aspects of the Western Ghats. The book sheds light on several topics such as ancient metallurgy, music, the making of honey, and the degradation of the ecosystem.

Resistance and resilience

When livelihood, land, culture, and identity are at stake, resistance, and resilience are the only means of safeguarding them. In *Valli,* written by Sheela Tomy in Malayalam in 2019 and translated into English in 2022 by Jayashree Kalathil, we learn of a tribal community's deep connection to the forest, which sustains them both physically and spiritually. As outsiders encroach upon their land, Valli's family and others in the community resist, clinging to their heritage and traditions. At the same time, Valli grapples with her personal growth, relationships, and changing social dynamics. The novel highlights the strength and perseverance of the Adivasi people as they navigate the complexities of modern life while fighting to preserve their heritage and connection to the land.

Through old and contemporary works on the Western Ghats, authors have stressed that the Ghats are more than just a landscape – they are a living archive of culture, memory, and resilience. Yet, this fragile ecosystem is scarred by encroachment, where tribal people are uprooted, natural resources are destroyed, and policies fail to protect what matters most. To save the Ghats is to do more than preserve their beauty; it is to respect the land and the lives entwined with it, to stand against their erasure, and to recognise that in their survival lies something far greater than us.

THE DAILY QUIZ

A quiz about the history of the right of women to vote

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1
On this day in 1918, Great Britain passed the Representation of the People Act that allowed men over the age of 21 and women over the age of X to vote. What's the value of X?

QUESTION 2
Since 1838, the _____ _____, the U.K.'s sole overseas territory in the Pacific Ocean, has given women the right to vote. Thus it's the territory that has continuously allowed women to vote for the longest duration in history.

QUESTION 3
Name the first place in India that gave women the right to vote, in 1920, although not the right to stand in elections. It was governed as a princely state during the reign of the British Empire. Bonus: which princely state first granted both rights, to vote and run for office, to women?

QUESTION 4
During the December 2015 municipal elections in _____ _____, the government allowed women to vote for the first time in its history. Women were also allowed to run for office and thus the country soon acquired its first women politicians. Fill in the blanks with the name of the country.

QUESTION 5
Name the world's first major country to grant both women and men the right to vote at the same time and on equal terms. This was achieved through the Local Administration Act 1897.

Visual Question:
This map of Switzerland shows its 26 cantons. Name the one shown in purple at a roughly 2 o'clock position, which was one of the last places in Europe to grant women the right to vote, in 1991. TOMCHEN1989 (CC BY-SA 3.0)

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. _____ is the cause of about 22% of cancer deaths. **Ans: Tobacco use**
2. This is a type of lymphoma in which cancer originates from a specific type of white blood cell called lymphocytes. **Ans: Hodgkin lymphoma**
3. What is the term used to define the spread of cancer to other locations in the body? **Ans: Metastasis**
4. This is a type of cancer that develops from the thin layer of tissue that covers many of the internal organs. **Ans: Mesothelioma**
5. Which U.S. President declared a 'war on cancer'? **Ans: Richard Nixon**
Visual: For which type of cancer, this vaccine is provided? **Ans: Cervical cancer**
Early Birds: ViswanadhaRao Batchu| Erfanally Oosmany | Sonali Das

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

I had asked readers to send their favourite passage from a book. Here is one from Mr. Shafiqur Rahman, Royapettah, Madras.

Father Forgets
W. Livingston Larned

Listen, son: I am saying this as you lie asleep, one little paw crumpled under your cheek and the blond curls stickily wet on your damp forehead. I have stolen into your room.

Just a few minutes ago, as I sat reading my paper in the library, a stifling wave of remorse swept over me. Guiltily I came to your bedside.

These are the things I was thinking, son: I had been cross to you. I scolded you as you were dressing for school because you gave your face merely a dab with a towel. I took you to task for not cleaning your shoes. I called out angrily when you threw some of your things on the floor.

At breakfast I found fault, too. You spilled things. And as you started off to play and I made for my train, you turned and waved a hand and called, "Good-bye, Daddy!" and I frowned, and said in reply, "Hold your shoulders back!"

Then I began all over again in the late afternoon. As I came up the road I spied you, down on your knees, playing marbles. There were holes in your stockings. I humiliated you before your boy friends by marching you ahead of me to the house.

Do you remember, later, when I was reading in the library, how you came in, timidly, with a sort of hurt look in your eyes? When I glanced up over my paper, impatient at the interruption, you hesitated at the door. "What is it you want?" I snapped.

You said nothing, but ran across in one tempestuous plunge, and threw your arms around my neck and kissed me, and your small arms tightened with an affection that God had set blooming in your heart and which even neglect could not wither. And then you were gone, pattering up the stairs.

Well, son, it was shortly afterwards that my paper slipped from my hands and a terrible sickening fear came over me. What has habit been doing to me? The habit of finding fault, of reprimanding – this was my reward to you for being a boy. It was not that I did not love you: it was that I expected too much of youth.

And there was so much that was good and fine and true in your character. The little heart of yours was as big as the dawn itself over the wide hills. This was shown by your spontaneous impulse to rush in and kiss me good-night. Nothing else matters tonight, son. I have come to your bedside in the darkness, and I have knelt there, ashamed!

It is a feeble atonement. I know you would not understand these things if I told them to you during your waking hours. But tomorrow I will be a real daddy! I will keep saying as if it were ritual: "He is nothing but a boy–a little boy!"

I am afraid I have visualised you as a man. Yet as I see you now, son, crumpled and weary in your cot, I see that you are still a baby. Yesterday you were in your mother's arms, your head on her shoulder. I have asked too much, too much.

I like the passage. It brings out the feelings of a father vividly. By the way, what is the meaning of "practically".

"Practically" means (a) in a practical manner. "Don't panic. Let us look at the problem calmly," said he practically. (b) almost, virtually. "She is practically unknown in this area."

Published in The Hindu on February 14, 1995

Word of the day

Recalcitrant:
stubbornly resistant to authority or control

Synonyms: ungovernable, insubmissive, uncooperative

Usage: *Her recalcitrant attitude towards the new rules made it difficult to work with her.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/recalcitrantpronun

International Phonetic Alphabet: /rəkælsɪtrənt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Malavalli MLA nominated as KSPCB chairman

P.M. Narendraswamy

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

P.M. Narendraswamy, Malavalli MLA, has been nominated as chairman of the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB).

For three years

As per a Government Order, Mr. Narendraswamy has been nominated to the post under section 4 (2) of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and in accordance with the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (Manner of Nomination and other Terms and Conditions of Service of Chairman and Members and appointment of Member Secretary), Rules, 2024, vide notification no. FEE 526 EPC 2024 (Part-1), with immediate effect for a period of three years or until further orders.

The nomination of Mr. Narendraswamy, who is a former Minister and close aide of Chief Minister Siddaramahiah, is seen as a political appointment.

The former chairman of the board Shanth A. Thimmaiah was removed from the post last year.

Kaveri 2.0 resumes registration activity after DDoS attack

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kaveri 2.0 portal, which had been affected by a Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack for the past week, is back on track and back to operating normally from Wednesday, a statement from K.A. Dayananda, Inspector General of Registration and Commissioner of Stamps (IGR&CS), said on Wednesday.

The total number of registrations on Wednesday was 7,225, and the total revenue collection was ₹62.59 crore, which is around the average number of registrations and revenue collected each day. For instance, in December 2024, the average number of registrations and revenue collection was 7,721 and ₹62.93 crore, respectively. "These numbers indicate that registration activity has returned to normal levels," IGR&CS said in his statement. On February 1, the number of registrations had reduced to 556 and on February 4, 1657.

The total number of registrations on Wednesday was 7,225, and the total revenue collection was ₹62.59 crore. FILE PHOTO

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda said that the DDoS attack carried out using bots started on January 13 and as and when the e-Governance Department fought back, the problem mutated, indicating a concerted, motivated campaign.

"We have got the portal running again from Wednesday. But we need to watch this for a couple of days to see if it stabilises. Registration of properties would be affected for a few more days due to the backlog," he said.

Mr. Byre Gowda said that the government had roped in experts from the International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore among others to fortify the portal, to fix vulnerabilities to avoid such attacks in future.

"To address this, a range of enhanced security measures have been implemented to mitigate the future risks and the e-Governance department is continuously monitoring to safeguard the application," the statement from IGR&CS said.

Nursing student ends life; college management booked for abetment

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 19-year-old nursing student ended her life in her hostel room in Harohalli, Ramanagara on Tuesday night.

The police have registered a case of abetment of suicide against members of the University's management based on a complaint lodged by the victim's father.

The deceased has been identified as Anamika Vineeth, a native of Kannur, Kerala, a first-year BSc nursing student at Dayananda Sagar University, Kanakapura, and was staying in the hostel on the same campus. Her roommate was away on sick leave for the last 15 days and the victim was staying alone in the room.

Security guards opened Anamakia's room using the master key after no response came from Anamika's room only to find her dead.

The police have recovered a death note written in Malayalam and have sent it to the Forensic Science Laboratory. Initial probe revealed that Anamika was under pressure due to academic reasons, which is also being probed, police said.

The victim's classmates alleged that Anamika was being harassed by the University's management. "She suffered harassment by faculty members and they also spread false information about her, resulting in severe mental and emotional abuse," the students said, terming it "institutional harassment" and "academic torture". Sources said that she was accused of malpractices.

The victim's father, in his statement to the police, reportedly said that Anamika, during her visit home in Kannur a month ago, complained of harassment by the university administration due to which she was not able to focus on her studies.

She reportedly called her parents on Tuesday afternoon and said she was unable to bear the harassment. The father told the police that he consoled her and assured he would come and meet the management.

(If you are in distress or having suicidal tendencies, please reach out to these 24/7 helplines: KIRAN 1800-599-0019 or Arogya Sahayavani at 104 for help)

Forest Dept. develops cost-effective radio collars to track elephant movements

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Forest Department in collaboration with a private manufacturer has indigenously developed a cost-effective radio collar to track elephant movements. The radio collars (K.P. Tracker) are cheaper and weigh less compared to the imported ones which were used earlier.

Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre distributed these new radio collars to forest officials from Bandipur and Nagarahole Tiger Reserves on Wednesday.

Imported earlier

Earlier, the department was importing radio collars from South Africa-based African Wildlife Tracking and German-based Vectronic which apart from costing ₹6.5 lakh for each unit was also not easily available. On the other hand, the indigenously developed radio collars cost ₹1.80 lakh per unit.

They also weigh only seven kilos compared to the imported collars, that weigh between 16 to 17 kg. The new collars also use eco-friendly raw materials, ensuring they pose no threat to wildlife or the environment.

Mr. Khandre said that with 6,395 elephants, Karnataka has the highest elephant population in India.

In three districts

"There are a lot of elephant movements in Kodagu, Chikkamagaluru, and Hassan. To track their movements, especially those of female elephants that usually lead the herds, locally developed radio collars would be put on them to provide information to local communities," Mr. Khandre said.

He said that using imported radio collars also posed the risk of leaking sensitive wildlife data. "The development of domestic radio collars ensures that such information remains secure on local servers," he added.

The Minister said that collars for tigers and leopards are under progress and will be launched soon.

pnb
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EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

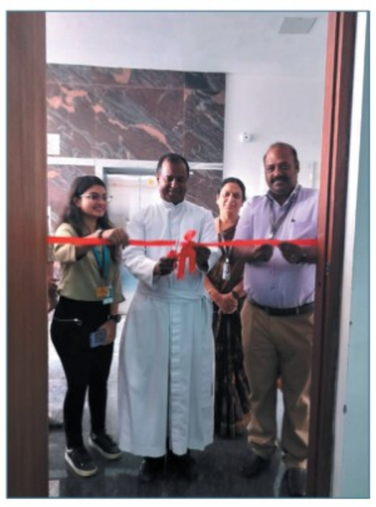
Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Bengaluru Campus Hosts 3rd Global Alumni Meet

The Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham Bengaluru Campus witnessed an unforgettable evening as it hosted the 3rd Global Alumni Meet. The event brought together over 250 alumni, accompanied by their families, to relive cherished memories and reconnect with their alma mater. Another 100 alumni joined virtually from across the globe, making it a truly global celebration of the Amrita spirit. The event commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the rekindling of bonds that transcend time and distance. Chancellor Mata Amritanandamayi Devi's heartfelt message set the tone for the evening. Her words inspired everyone present, as she encouraged them to embrace compassion, good health, and mental strength in their journeys. The highlight of the evening was the recognition of distinguished alumni whose achievements have brought pride to Amrita. The 3rd Global Alumni Meet was a resounding success, leaving everyone with a sense of pride and belonging to the Amrita family. As the event concluded, the promise to meet again echoed in the hearts of all those present, a testament to the enduring bond shared by the alumni of Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

Journey of Endurance and Service in Pune Christ Lavasa

Nestled in the lap of the Sahyadri mountains, Lavasa city was envisioned as a dream, an escape from the humdrum of city life. At its peak, the city saw major institutions like Ecole Institute of Hotel Management and Christ University making it a destination city. Things changed quickly. The dream gave way to a township that struggled to find takers due to the bankruptcy of the promoters. The township soon was at a crossroads with most institutions choosing to withdraw their operations. But CHRIST does more than that. The University's Lavasa campus part of the 60-year-old Bangalore-based Institution has been operating in the valley over the last 10 years fruitfully multiplying its fold and the economy that it has created for the many villages in and around the valley. Christ Lavasa is, in a true sense, an experimental Gurukul that extends its ideology of service and excellence to the community through a symbiotic relationship with the locals, the town administration, the senior citizens and the vast expanse of nature binding all the various elements together. The 10 years have been an exercise in nurturing systemic excellence through holistic education and community service, which are core institutional values. Looking back at the journey of the city, one can see how Christ University has become the core of this space.

"Echoes of Sacrifice" Art Exhibition to Commemorate National Martyrs Day at Kristu Jayant College(KJC)



Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal of KJC, inaugurated the "Echoes of Sacrifice" art exhibition and emphasized the importance of remembering the sacrifices made by India's martyrs, was organised by the Department of Political Science, KJC (Autonomous), Bengaluru. Fr. Dr. Augustine's address resonated deeply with the audience, inspiring discussions on patriotism and the responsibilities of today's youth in safeguarding the nation's legacy. The exhibition, held in observance of National Martyrs Day (Shaheed Diwas), aimed to honor the brave individuals who gave their lives for the country's independence. The display featured 17 captivating shadow art pieces, created by students, which stunningly portrayed the ideals upheld by India's martyrs. Under the direction of Dr. SJ Michel, the exhibition showcased innovative artistry, using light and shadow as mediums to represent important historical events and the selfless sacrifice of those who fought for the nation. The exhibition proved to be a poignant reminder of the bravery and dedication of India's martyrs, encouraging students and faculty to appreciate the freedom they enjoy today and the ideals that continue to guide the nation.

St. Thomas College Wins Maria Philip Future Leaders Debate 2024

St. Thomas College Wins Maria Philip Future Leaders Debate 2024 Kochi: St. Thomas College, Thrissur, claimed victory in the Kerala Finals of the Maria Philip Future Leaders Debate Competition 2024, hosted at XIME Kochi. Competing against 102 teams at the zonal level, the Kerala nal showcased remarkable debating prowess. The winning team, comprising Sreehari M.V. and Sree Ranjini S. Babu, emerged as champions, while Janet Eldho and Krishanand Prajith Menon from Rajagiri School of Engineering and Technology secured the runners-up position. The debate theme, "The United Nations is no longer an eective body in addressing global conict and political tension," spurred engaging arguments and intellectual discourse. Amb. Prof. C.P. Ravindranathan, IFS (Retd.), Chairman, XIME Kochi, spoke on the art of rhetoric, emphasizing that passion, logic, and emotional connection form the essence of persuasive communication.The Kerala champions will advance to the Grand Finale in Bengaluru, representing the state on a prestigious platform that celebrates debate and leadership.

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Six States pass 15-point resolution against UGC's new draft regulation

Representatives from Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, and Karnataka took part in the event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On Wednesday, Ministers for Higher Education and their representatives from six States passed a joint resolution opposing the new draft of the University Grants Commission (Minimum Qualifications for Appointment and Promotion of Teachers and Academic Staff in Universities and Colleges and Measures for the Maintenance of Standards in Higher Education) Regulations, 2025, and grading of higher education institutions based on the New Education Policy-2020.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, and Minister for Higher Education M.C. Sudhakar with other participants at the Higher Education Ministers' conclave in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Some of the resolutions passed

- States must be given a pivotal role in appointment of Vice-Chancellors to State public universities
- Provision relating to appointing non-academics as Vice-Chancellors should be withdrawn
- Guideline on qualification, term, and eligibility for appointment of VCs requires re-consideration as it impinges upon the standards of higher education
- The removal of the Academic Performance Indicator (API) system of evaluation and the introduction of the new system allows a high level of discretion
- The provisions on consequences of violations of the draft UGC regulations are drastic, undemocratic
- Imposing all proposals in NEP and taking punitive measures for non-compliance are dictatorial
- Making entrance exam mandatory for basic undergraduate courses is a barrier for inclusive education

Demand for withdrawal

This was the outcome of the conclave of State Higher Education Ministers-2025, hosted by Karnataka. Representatives from Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Karnataka participated and came out with a 15-point resolution, urging the Union government to withdrawal the new draft regulations. In their resolution, the States said that the BJP-headed Union government is trying to push its agenda and ideology through the new regulations, undermining federal principles.

The Maharashtra representative, who was to virtually attend the conclave, was unable to continue due to technical glitches. The Jammu & Kashmir Minister communicated that they could not take part due to emergency meetings, said Karnataka's Higher Education Minister M.C. Sudhakar, addressing presspersons later. He claimed that even some parties which are in alliance with BJP have expressed their objection to the UGC draft regulations, including Telugu Desam Party in Andhra Pradesh, Janata Dal United (JDU) and Lok Janshakti Party (LJP-Ram Vilas) of Bihar. West Bengal has constituted an expert committee to look into it.

Dr. Sudhakar said, "We have urged the Union government to immediately withdraw them and hold a collective consultation with states. We will wait for UGC's decision and take a call on the next course of action."

Only regulatory body

He said that the UGC is only the regulatory body and it cannot override the State. "In this regulation, the States have no power in the appointment of Vice-Chancellors and the Governor has been given complete power. However, all the functions including development of infrastructure of the universities, recruitment, salary and other rules are carried out by the state governments. We are confident that UGC and the Union Education Ministry will reconsider and invite all the states for a detailed deliberation," the Minister added.

Govi Chezhiaan, Minister for Higher Education, Tamil Nadu, pointed out that T.N. was the first to pass a resolution in the Assembly against the regulations, followed by Kerala. "This is the Centre's move to undermine elected state governments and take over state universities. T.N. has always prioritised education and social justice, but these rules go against the interests of students."

Sridhar Babu, Minister for IT and Industry, Telangana, described the regulation as "drastic and draconian." Sudivya Kumar, Minister for Higher and Technical Education, Jharkhand, and Rohit Thakur, Minister for Education, Himachal Pradesh, said that states would oppose the regulations with full force.

UGC Chairman responds

Meanwhile, responding to the resolution, UGC Chairman M. Jagadesh Kumar, said the new regulations "aim to ensure the highest standards in universities by introducing a more inclusive and transparent selection process." He said they "seek to uphold the autonomy and accountability of higher education institutions." He further said they welcome constructive feedback and would work collaboratively.

Internal tussle in BJP intensifies as rebels wind up their Delhi visit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Delhi visit of BJP rebels to complain to the central leaders appears to have only intensified the internal tussle in the party's Karnataka unit, even as they concluded their visit by claiming that they hope to get a "positive message" by February 10.

The team of BJP rebels comprising Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, Ramesh Jarkiholi, Kumar Bangarappa, and G.M. Siddeshwar, former MP, among others, wound up their Delhi visit on Wednesday, after meeting party central leaders to complain against State president B.Y. Vijayendra. They met some prominent party MPs, including former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai.

BJP rebel leaders, including Ramesh Jarkiholi, G.M. Siddeshwar, and Basanagouda R. Patil Yatnal, met prominent party MPs in New Delhi on Wednesday.

BYV's show of strength

But even before the rebels concluded their trip, the supporters of Mr. Vijayendra who met in Bengaluru announced that they would visit Delhi soon to clarify various issues with the party's central leaders and also to complain against the rebels for sullying the image of the party. They also announced that they would hold a meeting of prominent party leaders in Bengaluru on February 10.

BJP insiders feel that the internal tussle in the party is not only getting serious but will also cause irreparable damage to the party if the central leaders do not take immediate measures to end it. They said the party organisational work has already taken a hit due to the internal tussle.

Lingayat issue

Recalling how the BJP had lost the Assembly polls in Karnataka in 2013 after veteran leader B.S. Yediyurappa walked away from it, the Vijayendra camp's main leader and former Minister M.P. Renukacharya warned that the party would not win more than 10 seats if it replaces Mr. Vijayendra as party State president bowing to the pressure from the rebels.

Responding strongly to this, Mr. Yatnal told mediapersons in Delhi that the days when Mr. Yediyurappa used to be the Lingayat strongman were gone. "Mr. Vijayendra does not have any hold on Lingayats. His removal from the party chief's post will not have any impact on the community," he maintained and also accused Mr. Yediyurappa of trampling upon the political careers of several Lingayat leaders.

Sriramulu's pitch

Amid these developments, BJP's prominent ST leader B. Sriramulu, who had recently expressed pain over the party State in charge Radhamohan Das Agarwal blaming him for the BJP's debacle in the byelection in Sandur, publicly expressed his desire to become the party State president.

"If there is a situation wherein Mr. Vijayendra has to step down, I will vehemently appeal to Mr. Yediyurappa to make me the next State chief of the party organisation," he told mediapersons in Kolar.

State govt. including controversial farm laws as reference for KAPC irks farmer leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government including controversial farm legislation that had been brought in and later withdrawn by the BJP-led government at the Centre as the reference points for the Karnataka Agricultural Prices Commission (KAPC) has ruffled the feathers of farmers' leaders and agricultural economists who had expressed their ideological support to the Congress.

Taking exception to a reference made to these rolled-back laws (related to land reforms and Agricultural Produce Market Committee) by the government's communication to the KAPC, prominent farmers' leaders who had actively participated in the farmers' struggle in Delhi against them, have now written an 'emergency public letter' to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, expressing shock and also warning him that they would have to take to streets if this was the government's stand.

Under the banner of 'Samyukta Horata (United Struggle) - Karnataka against the anti-farmer and labour policies of the Centre and the State', which had earlier participated in the national farmers' struggle against the Centre's legislations, several prominent farmers' leaders and social activists including Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha President Badagalapura Nagendra, Karnataka Janashakti President Noor Sridhar and KRRS & Hasiru Sene President H.R. Basavarajappa wrote to the Chief Minister on Wednesday.

In the letter, they recalled that Mr. Siddaramaiah, who was then the Opposition leader, had participated in their protest against the Centre's legislations with respect to agriculture sector.

Later, in the pre-poll manifesto, the Congress had declared that it would nullify such legislations and also bring in a legislation to ensure Minimum Support Prices to agricultural produce, they pointed out. But, they alleged that none of these promises had come true in the real sense after the Congress came to power in Karnataka.

Meanwhile, some farmers' leaders and agri economists felt that references to these legislations could be just another "insensitive and mechanical bureaucratic" communication. "But even then it is a serious issue as it clearly reflects the government not having control over administration and the flaw in the monitoring system," observed an agricultural expert.

Other leaders who signed the letter include T. Yasjwanth of Karnataka Rajya Prantha Raitha Sangha, Siddagouda Modgi of Bharatiya Krishik Samaja President, H.V. Diwakar of Raitha Kooli Sangha and P.V. Lokesh of Akhila Bharata Kisan Sabha.

Centre criticised for denial of AIIMS to Raichur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite a relentless 1,000-day struggle and multiple appeals, the Centre has not provided a positive response on the sanctioning of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Raichur, said Minister for Minor Irrigation, Science, and Technology N.S. Boseraju.

Instead of sanctioning AIIMS, the Centre has been engaging in "political manoeuvring" by merely suggesting an increase in health facilities under the National Health Mission and the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), he said.

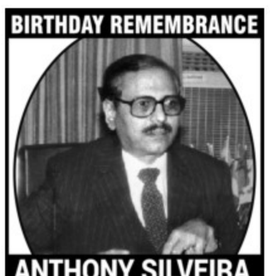
Speaking to reporters at the Congress office here on Wednesday, he criticised the Centre for repeatedly neglecting the Kalyana Karnataka (KK) region. "The Centre is systematically depriving Raichur of its rightful development - socially, politically, and economically. As per our federal structure, it is the Centre's duty to ensure social, economic, and political justice for every state," he said. The Centre's continuous disregard for the legitimate demands of Karnataka is a violation of Constitutional principles, he asserted.

The PMSSY was designed to reduce regional imbalances in healthcare by establishing AIIMS hospitals across of the country. Under it, the Centre has already sanctioned AIIMS institutions in 22 states.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE



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Email : jdfarmsahvs@gmail.com **Ph:** 080-23412767
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಆಪಸಂ/ಅನಿ(ಜಾಅ)/**ASCAD LE/TENDER/2024–25/134–1** ದಿನಾಂಕ : **05.02.2025**

RE TENDER NOTIFICATION
(KPP portal mode only)

The Commissioner of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services, Government of Karnataka, Bangalore hereby invites bids through KPP-portal from eligible bidders FOR SUPPLY OF LABORATORY EQUIPMENT UNDER ASCAD SCHEME FOR THE YEAR 2024-25 for which the tendered Amount is **Rs. 146.16 lakhs.**
Complete tender documents can be viewed by visiting website No: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from Dt: **05.02.2025** and tenderers can upload all the necessary documents through KPP portal from **05.02.2025 to 16.02.2025 till 17.30 hours.**
Further information can be obtained from KPP Portal and this office during office hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director, Animal Disease Surveillance Scheme, Department of Animal Husbandry & Veterinary Services
DIPR/CP/4832/Zen/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
Construction & Maintenance Division
LPSC Campus, 80 Ft. Road, HAL II Stage, Bengaluru -560 008. Ph:080-25037203/080-2503214
04.02.2025

E-TENDER NOTICE
On behalf of the President of India, item rate tenders are invited for the following work:

Sl. No.	Name of work and NIT No. & Date	Estimated Amount	EMD	Period of Completion
1	Maintenance Works-Roof Water Proofing works for old EBW, PMSD Clean Room & Instrumentation/Chemical Analysis Facilities, LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru. No:LPSC(B)/CMD/03/3005/C/MI/025/2024-25 Dated: 04.02.2025	₹16.52 Lakhs	₹ 33,040/-	01 Month
2	Providing Flooring to Clean Room at HEP Facility, LPSC(B) Campus, Bengaluru No:LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2016/C/MI/026/2024-25 Dated: 04.02.2025	₹10.07 Lakhs	₹ 20,140/-	15 Days
3	Road works between Vibration Test Facility & Composite Building at LPSC (B) Campus, Bengaluru No:LPSC(B)/CMD/02/2018/C/MI/028/2024-25 Dated: 04.02.2025	₹22.77 Lakhs	₹ 45,540/-	02 Months
4	Sale Period From 04.02.2025 to 11.02.2025			

Interested tenderers may please refer **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO.** Also detailed Notice Invting Tender (NIT) for eligibility criteria and other details, which can be downloaded from **www.isro.gov.in, www.lpsc.gov.in**

Sd/- Head CMD, LPSC(B)

(Public Works Department)
Chikkaballapur Division, Chikkaballapur

Invitation for Tender (I.F.T) No.17/2024-25 Date:01.02.2025

(For Road Works -As per standard Bid Document KW 2,3 in two cover system).

On behalf of The Governor of Karnataka, as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 2000, the undersigned invite tenders for works in two cover system through KPP Portal from eligible contractors registered in PWD. Those interested in participating in the tender can submit the tenders from **Date: 01.02.2025 to 17.02.2025 upto 04:00 pm.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during hours on works days or from websites **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Chikkaballapur
DIPR/CHIKKABALLAPUR/R.O.NO:359/KSMCA/2024-25

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA NIYAMITHA
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprises)
Office of the Executive Engineer, VC Division, Mandya-571401. Mandya Dist Ph: 08232-225046

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION NO-11/2024-25
Dated : 31.01.2025
Single Cover & Two cover System
Through e-procurement

This office's tender Notification No.11/2024-25, Dated: 31.01.2025 for a total No of 03 works (Minimum amount-30.75 lakhs Maximum amount Rs. 99.90 lakhs). Item wise rate tender Is Invited from eligible KPWD Class-III & Above contractors. Tender queries and clarification as per e-portal. E.M.D should be paid through E-payment. Last date of submission of tenders through on-line : As per e-Portal, Date of opening of tender As per e-portal. For additional Information log on to http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and contact on official Land-line number 08232-225046 During office hours

Sd/-Executive Engineer, Cauvery Neeravari Nigama Ltd VC Division, Mandya.
ವಾಸಾಸಂಜ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆವಿಸ್ ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/627/2024–25

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (Kaveri - Operation & Maintenance), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Sl. No	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount		Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
1.	Kaveri (O & M-2)	BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/3013/2024-25 Date: 04.02.2025	1.	Rs. 34.68 Lakhs / Rs.70,000/-	13.02.2025 upto 4:00 pm.	14.02.2025 after 5:00 pm.
2.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/2990/2024-25 Date: 03.02.2025	2.	Rs. 68.86 Lakhs / Rs. 1,38,000/-		
3.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/3009/2024-25 Date: 04.02.2025	3.	Rs. 34,01,752/- / Rs. 68,500/-		
4.		BWSSB/EE(K-O&M)-2/PB/3011/2024-25 Date: 04.02.2025	4.	Rs. 75.07 Lakhs / Rs. 1,51,000/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Kaveri-Operation & Maintenance-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/4863/SSC/2024-25

NSD's Bharangam 2025 is showcasing years of theatre legacy and global performances

The Bengaluru version of the festival is hosting about 1,500 artistes and has seen a footfall of close to 5,000 people on most of the days of the festival

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

I had no idea Bengaluru and Karnataka had so many theatre troupes. I got to meet people from close to 30 different theatre troupes due to the exhibition put up here. My classmates and I were surprised to see that there are so many teams that have been around for more than 50 years. It was a treat to watch folk artistes perform Krishna Parijatha," said 20-year-old Ananya K., a theatre student from a popular college in the city at theatre festival Bhrangam, 2025.

Bharangam or BRM -- short for Bharat Rang Mahotsav - International Theatre Festival of India, is one among the most anticipated events for theatre communities across the country. Organised by the National School of Drama (NSD), this year marks NSD's 25th year hosting Bharangam, which is happening across several cities in India and abroad. Kicked off on January 28, the festival is on till February 16, across 13 cities in India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka featuring 123 productions by 110 Indian groups, and 10 foreign groups, in 13 different languages.

In Bengaluru, the event started on February 1 in collaboration with Karnataka Nataka Academy and the Kannada and Culture Department, Government of Karnataka. It will go on till February 8 at Kalagrama, at Mallatahalli. The Bengaluru version of the festival is hosting about 1,500 artistes and has seen a footfall of close to 5,000 people on most of the days of the festival.

The festival venue in Bengaluru is marked by an infectious enthusiasm. Likith Sharma, a visitor at the festival, said, "I never realised Bengaluru and Karnataka had such a vast theatre community... Also I had never watched a play in a different language or by a foreign group. Through this festival I got to watch *The Marriage of Balzaimnov*, a Russian play, and I can not wait to watch the play from Sri Lanka."

A scene from the play Mayari Mai Kahan Se Hu directed by Ajay Kumar. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The festival has performers from across India, besides Sri Lanka and Russia. SUDHAKARA JAIN

BRM 2025 features international theatre groups participating hailing from Russia, Italy, Germany, Norway, Czech Republic, Nepal, Taiwan, Spain, and Sri Lanka. In the Bengaluru edition, the festival is featuring eight plays from across the country, besides Sri Lanka and Russia.

In a release, Chittaranjan Tripathy, Director, National School of Drama said, "Bharat Rang Mahotsav has become a quintessential theatre festival on the global stage with its expansive approach.

It has not only served as a platform for theatre performances from around the world but has also offered opportunities for the amalgamation of various traditional performing art forms. Additionally, it has facilitated knowledge-sharing and idea-exchange among individuals from the dramatic arts and other creative fields."

A full circle

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Meeta Mishra, senior theatre person and coordinator, NSD, said that 25 years of Bharangam feels like a full circle. "The festival has happened every year since its inception, except for one year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many years ago, NSD's current director Chittaranjan Tripathy had directed a play called *Taj Mahal Ka Tender*, which became quite popular, and is still running. This year the same play with a new set of actors is being presented at the festival, after 25 years. This feels complete now." What stands out in this year's festival is that there are plays by close to 23 women directors, she added.

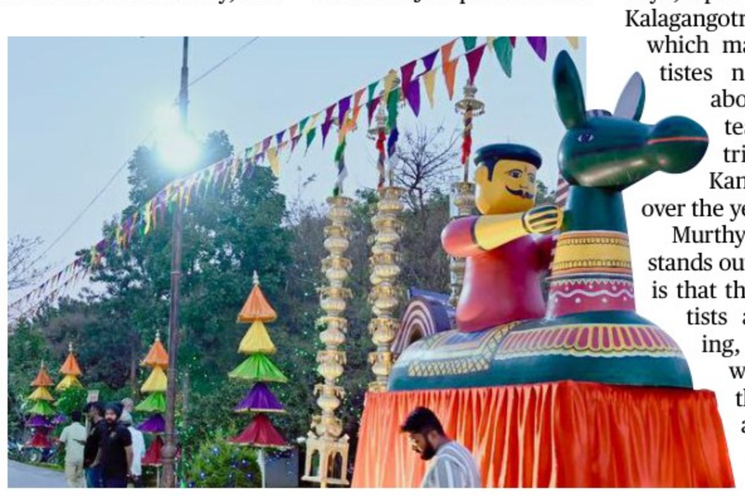
"After almost two decades the festival is being hosted at Bengaluru. Shashidar Adapa who is a well know production designer from Bengaluru, has transformed the whole look of Kalagrama with the decor, set and exhibitions which should not be missed," Mishra added.

Cultural heritage

Nagaraj Murthy, Chairman, Karnataka Nataka Academy, said that hosting the festival has been an honour for the Academy, and an opportunity to showcase the rich cultural heritage of Bengaluru and Karnataka. "Every day we have managed to showcase the folk forms of Karnataka. Radha Nata, a form under Doddata, was showcased recently. We also had Yakshagana and Krishna Parijata, another form of folk theatre. We had artistes who presented the company style theatre form," he said.

The festival is also focusing on educating young theatre practitioners. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Murthy added that the festival is not just focusing on presenting productions but also making it more educative for young theatre practitioners, " We also have Janapada artistes conducting workshops for children and seminars by theatre scholars for theatre artistes. Book stalls by well-known publishers, and exhibitions by 45 theatre troupes from across Karnataka and majorly from Bengaluru who are showcasing their work through these exhibitions. Every evening, we have theatre troupes volunteering to present *Ranagageete* (theatre songs), which is a new experience for theatre makers coming from other states. We are also honouring teams that have been in the community for more than 50 years like Samudaya, Spandana, Benaka, Kalagangotri and more, which many young artistes need to know about. These teams have contributed a lot to Kannada theatre over the years."



Murthy said that what stands out in this festival is that thousands of artists are participating, and many are working through day and night without seeking payments.

"When we went to the Chief Minister with the idea of a Ranga Parishe or an exhibition, he was thrilled with the idea and immediately gave us a nod to go ahead. While NSD is taking care of logistics and accommodation, the Kannada and Culture Department has willingly offered to incur majority of the expenses, which is close to a crore. From equipment to print material everything has been provided by the department. However, it is the ethics and commitment to theatre that troupes from across the state have. Many artistes are volunteering and contributing to the festival without a fee. Even the 45 exhibitions put up by the troupes has been at their own expense," he explained.

For theatre students

Veena Sharma, Centre Director, NSD, Bengaluru, said that his has been a great exchange programme for the students. "The NSD Bengaluru students got to interact with the students from a drama school from Russia. Both the students presented their work to each other, and the Russian students were thrilled to know that Indian theatre is beyond just the Natya Shastra. Our students also got an opportunity to discuss the Russian's style of theatre," she said.

Sharma added that apart from the exchanges, all the students from NSD Bengaluru are actively participating in the festival. "The students are performing *Jasma Odan*, a play directed by B. Jayashree on February 8, they rehease through the first half of the day, and during the second half they are actively participating in the events and also helping with management of the festival," she added. The schedule for the Bengaluru edition of the festival going on at the Mallatahalli campus of NSD is available at https://brm.nsd.gov.in/bengaluru-schedule/

Acharyanet Foundation presents Gana Vadya Sammelan

Sudha Ragunathan. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Acharyanet Foundation is set to present a captivating musical evening titled *Gana Vadya Sammelan* on February 9 at 5.30 p.m. The event will feature a jugalbandi performance by renowned artistes Chitravina N. Ravikiran and Sudha Ragunathan.Accompanying the duo will be a talented ensemble, including K.V. Prasad on tabla, V.S.P. Gayatri Sivani on violin, and G.S. Ramanujan on ghata, promising an evening of rich classical music.

The concert will take place at the Chaithanya Woodrush Clubhouse, located at Whitefield, Hoskote Road, Kannamangala, Bengaluru. Music enthusiasts can contact support@acharyanetfoundation for further details.

Programme launched in city to vaccinate adolescent girls against cervical cancer

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women globally and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Indian women

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

As part of efforts to fight cervical cancer and support women's healthcare in India, Tekion, the innovator of the first cloud-native platform serving the automotive retail ecosystem, has partnered with Jivika Foundation to vaccinate 500 adolescent girls from economically weaker sections of society against cervical cancer.

The first phase of the drive was launched in Bengaluru on Wednesday by actor Sruthi Hariharan in the presence of obstetrician and gynecologist Dr. Padmini Prasad.

Girls in the age group of 9-14 years will be vaccinated in Bengaluru and Chennai as part of this collaboration in multiple phases.

Tekion and Jivika Foundation partner to vaccinate 500 adolescent girls against cervical cancer. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

"At Tekion, we are committed to supporting vital social causes through Tekion For Good, our Corporate Social Responsibility programme (CSR)," said Rana Robillard, Chief People Officer, Tekion.

Cervical cancer is the second most common cancer in women globally and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths among Indian women. According to the ICMR - National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, India accounts for a disproportionately high number of cervical cancer cases and fatalities, with approximately 1,23,000 new diagnoses and 67,500 deaths annually, said a release.

This translates to an age-standardized incidence rate of 14.7 per 1,00,000 women and a mortality rate of 9.2 per 100,000 women, significantly exceeding the WHO's target incidence rate of below 4 per 100,000 women for cervical cancer elimination, the release said. The Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is said to be effective when administered before exposure to the virus, making vaccination of girls aged 9-14 years crucial. The WHO recommends this age group as the primary target for HPV vaccination, states the release

Jignesh Patel, Founder & CEO of Jivika Foundation observed that HPV infection is a growing health crisis for women in India, and early intervention is essential. "India accounts for nearly one-fourth of the world's cervical cancer deaths. Yet, millions of marginalized girls remain unprotected. But this isn't just a statistic - it's a call to action. Healthcare is not a privilege; it's a right," he said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 6, 1975

No Decision to Stop Free Allowance of Water

Bangalore, Feb. 5: Mr. N. Lakshman Rau, Corporation Administrator and Chairman of the Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage board, today denied that the City Corporation had taken a decision to withdraw from April 1, the free allowance of 25,000 litres of water per month given to domestic consumers.

He also assured the public that no decision had been taken by the Corporation to remove the public fountains (taps) provided in areas inhabited by the poor.

Mr. Lakswhman Rau was inaugurating the Board's Rs. 1.7 lakh water supply scheme to Dookanahalli.

Three Titles for Karnataka

Shimoga, Feb. 5: Karnataka won the boys kabaddi and wrestling events and retained the girls kho kho title on the final day of the All India rural sports here today.

Karnataka in kho kho super league beat West Bengal by 4-1 in the last encounter and headed the table with 6 points. Andhra and West Bengal took the second and third places respectively.

Andhra Pradesh with two victories from three matches claimed the second place and West Bengal with one win occupied the third place.Punjab also with one victory occupied the last position owing to lesser score average.

Found in translation

Two masterpieces in Kannada — *Mankutimmana Kagga* and *Hasuru Honnu* — can now be read in English, courtesy the efforts of the authors' family

Ranjani Govind

Two masterpieces in Kannada – *Mankutimmana Kagga* by the late literary giant DV Gundappa (DVG) and *Hasuru Honnu* by his son BGL Swamy, have been recently released in English in Bengaluru. While K Natarajan, Gundappa's grandson, translated the ever-relevant *Mankutimmana Kagga* (*A Yokel's Sheafs*), his wife, Jyothi Natarajan, took up BGL Swamy's *Hasuru Honnu (When Green is Gold)*.

Both translators admit they had to navigate tricky terrain to keep the works as authentic and meaningful as possible to English readers. They felt the intense philosophical leaning in *Mankutimmana Kagga*, and *Hasuru Honnu*'s take on understanding nature and ecology, peppered with humour, were works that had to reach a wider audience for the sake of literature.

Jyothi Natarajan says, "Gundappa and BGL Swamy were great, erudite personalities, often diverse, at times peculiar, at times unfathomable, but always outstandingly scholarly."

In an exclusive interview Natarajan, now 79, and a lecturer at various engineering colleges in Bengaluru and a visiting professor in the United states, talks about these works. Excerpts:

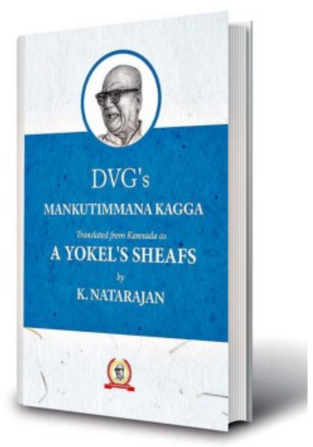
Given its content and underlying philosophy, how did you feel when you first considered translating *Mankutimmana Kagga*?

Firstly, *Mankutimmana Kagga's* fame attracted me. As I studied it, it became evident that there were layers of meaning and deep philosophical insights in every stanza. The few books on the *Mankutimmana Kagga* that I referred to, left me with a sense of awe for the author. Its reach, scholarly content, verse formation and poetic structure are incredible.

So, it was raw nerve and the spirit of "Why not?" that egged me on. It was a formidable task and at times, it seemed impossible. If I left it midway, my effort would become antithetical to the grand theme of the *Mankutimmana Kagga* itself - to spur man on to live life and fight, not to be cowed down by vagaries of fate.

Did you feel translating the *Mankutimmana Kagga* was a great responsibility? What were your experiences in handling his 945 couplets?

I always felt that the great 'kavya' deserved wider exposure, and that translating it was a way of broadening its readership. Translating was indeed a genuine pleasure, although often tempered with agonising difficulties. I am aware of a disconnect between the modern reader and the original work in Kannada.



Today's youngsters seem to prefer instant solutions, while a sustained effort is needed to enjoy classical literature. The *Mankutimmana Kagga* has a lasting quality, an enduring innate beauty, that has not lost its appeal in over 80 years. I am happy that I have made no attempt to modernise it. The splendour of the original should not be mutilated.

Would you comment on some of your favourite couplets?

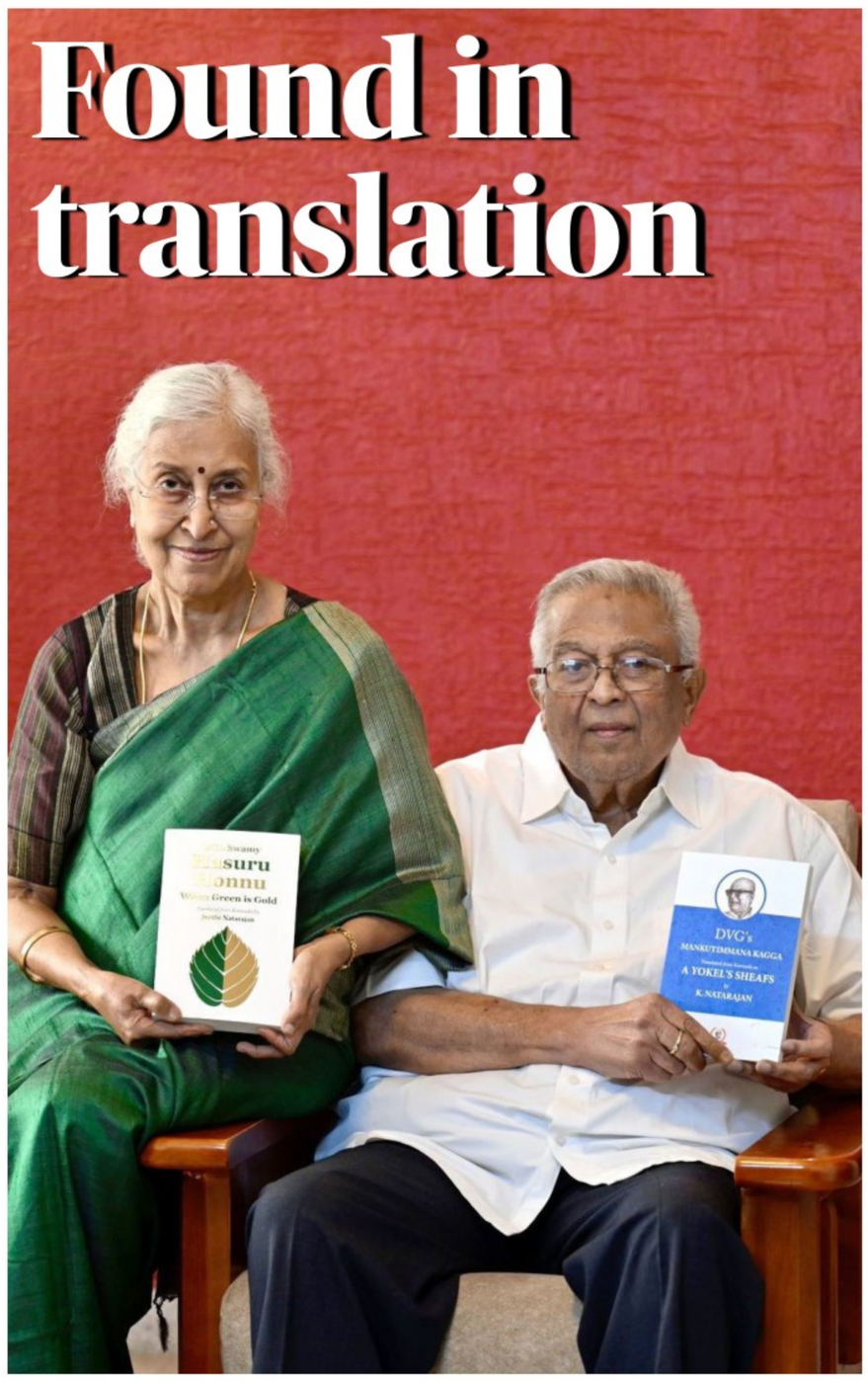
My admiration for the *Mankutimmana Kagga* is centered on its theme: the supremacy of *dharma*, the inevitability of *karma* and most importantly, *karma* being the vehicle for performing *dharma*. It is not without reason that the *Mankutimmana Kagga* is considered the 'Kannada Bhagavadgeeta.'

What can you tell us about DV Gundappa as a person?

Despite his intellectual and scholastic stature, Gundappa was a person with absolutely no pretensions. It is the hallmark of his character that he was able to establish a connection with people of any level – from his personal assistant to the pontiff of Kanchi.

He was as much at ease singing nursery rhymes with children as he was discussing nuances of a raga with MS Subbulakshmi. He was easygoing with family, a terror to the favour seeker, and downright nasty to the showy!

Another feature that defined him was his breadth of vision. He had insisted that I go through parts of *The Bible* and *The Koran*; irreverent references to sacred texts annoyed him greatly.



Dynamic duo Writers K Natarajan and Jyothi Natarajan with their works. SUDHAKARA JAIN

DVG Balaga Pratisthana decided to translate the family's literary works into English with the DVG Global Literary series. What is the plan of the Pratisthana when it comes to the translations it has chalked out?

The DVG Balaga Pratishthana is a non-commercial organisation helmed by a group of like-minded people interested in DVG's contribution to Kannada literature. They have taken up publication of works as part of their overall activities. We, the members of DVG's family, feel a sense of pride in the Pratishthana's work. The agenda does not appear to be structured or formalised, except that their interests are in spreading "the message of DVG and BGL".

CITYBEATS

Tangled complexities

FEBRUARY 8, 9

Tumhaare Baare Mein is a theatre performance by Arena Theatre Productions that will be staged this weekend. The play focuses on modern relationships, complexities and the dilemmas which come with it, emphasising the voids felt with the differences among partners.

Open to all aged 16 years and above. At Atta Galatta. Call 9632510126 for timings and tickets.

Shop, eat, groove

FEBRUARY 9

Terai Bazaar 2025 can be described as a blend of shopping, music and food. The one-day event will include a range of delicacies, craft beer, live music, and activities for all age groups. There will be stalls by over 100 homegrown brands, besides a performance by Swarathma.

At The Bay, Ecoworld, Bellandur, noon onwards. Tickets on BookMyShow and Insider.

Page mixers

FEBRUARY 7

Enjoy an evening of books, banter and a wee bit of romance with Radhika Agarwal, author of *Red Flags and Rishtas*. During this singles mixer designed for book lovers, Radhika will guide participants through quirky icebreakers and playful dating games.

At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar, from 7pm. Open to all aged 18 and above. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Creativity without borders

Holding Space Season 5 is underway across varied venues in the country till March 2025. Organised by Pickle Factory Dance Foundation, this artist-led NGO focuses on the practise, discourse and presentation of dance and movement work in Kolkata. Since 2018, they have organised over 750 programmes, featuring 400 artists and guests from across 20 countries.

The upcoming Bengaluru chapter will include a performance *Shoot the Cameraman* presented by As We Are, Luxembourg. This is interactive performance plays with audience's perception of what is taking place on stage.

Shoot the Cameraman was conceptualised by Baptiste Hilbert & Catarina Barbosa, a dance company which derives inspiration from contemporary social matters created by the digital age.

On February 9, 6.30pm at Prestige Srihari Khoday Centre for the Performing Arts.

Visit picklefactory.in for details.

When dance meets destiny

Shilpa Anandraj

Poetry in motion Vyshnavie Sainath Prabhu employs Bharatanatyam to promote social causes. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Vyshnavie Sainath Prabhu, an internationally acclaimed Bharatanatyam dancer, TedX speaker and a scholarship holder from Goldman Sachs (IIM Bangalore) will perform at Karunashryaya this weekend. The dance, titled *Manas Strotah* – myriad emotions through dance, is about life textured by the events that shape it, says Vyshnavie.

"The common thread that runs through this fabric is the emotion that each event evokes in us. Dance is therapeutic in nature. The dance is about the *nava rasas* (the nine emotions), hence *Manas Strotah* is an exploration of these emotions through stories from our Indian mythologies."

Vyshnavie is also a choreographer and an educator with a PhD in dance. She believes in using dance to create a social impact, and bring joy and healing. "I am not formally associated with Karunashraya, but am keen to leverage dance as a medium for various social causes. This is the first time I am performing for Karunashraya with the aim of spreading awareness about this facility. The event is also an attempt to leverage Indian arts as a medium to raise funds and as a medium of healing."

Vyshnavie took to dance early in life and being the daughter of dancer Rajeswari Sainath, says dance is in her DNA. "Over time, the aim was how I could make dance socially relevant in today's world, help people understand the art form and how they can pursue it too."

Manas Strotah is choreographed by Vyshnavie's mother. "Indian art is so powerful that there is always something to take away from it for anyone watching or associated with it." Vyshnavie is known for presenting dance ballets on topics from mythology as well as social, medical and women empowerment.

Manas Strotah, Vyshnavie says, is an attempt to establish connectivity between the performer and the audience. The performance will also include rhythmic poetry on Shiva, representing his powerful *tandava*. It will be a solo thematic presentation to recorded music.

Manas Strotah is on February 8 at Karunashraya Hall, Bengaluru Hospice Center, Kundalahalli. Open to all.

Simple satisfaction Si Nonna's at Marksquare. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

EATING OUT

Knead to please

Ruth Dhanaraj

Almost everything I imagined about modern Italian eateries comes to mind as I step into Si Nonna's – bright, cosy and sunshiny, with familiar tunes serenading us in the background. Only candles in wine bottles atop red-and-white checkered tablecloths were missing.

Traditionally, pizzas were simple affairs, prepared with the most basic of ingredients. At Si Nonna's, where the pizzas remain true to their original avatar, you realise "less is more" when it comes to taste and quality.

So, what makes Si Nonna's stand out in a city where pizza has become commonplace? First, their offerings are crafted from sourdough that has fermented over a 48-hour period. Every outlet follows the process of adding to the mother dough (or starter dough) using a 500-year-old recipe.

Second, with vegan, vegetarian, Jain and non-vegetarian options, there is something for everyone under the sun. Last, and perhaps most fun of all, is their open kitchen plan where one can see bases being stretched, flipped, meticulously topped and then slid into a specially-fashioned oven lined with tiles of Vesuvian lava. On days, when they're not too busy, diners can try their hand at tossing a pizza too.

Hits: Everything
Misses: None
Price for two: ₹1000

We settle in and start with the tomato and mozzarella focaccia. This flatbread seasoned with rosemary, oregano and sea salt, set the tone for our meal. Paired with lemon iced tea, the focaccia drizzled with EVOO (extra virgin olive oil) was simple and tasty; the light base, we were told, owed its airiness to the sourdough.

Next up was the pesto, cheese and tomato calzone, and once again we are blown away by how a few ingredients can be magically transformed into something amazing.

All the pizzas at Si Nonna's are 12-inchers and we believe the staff when they say the sourdough base is light on the stomach. After all, the bread-heavy feeling is missing.

The lunch-hour crowd had thinned a bit, so we decided to try our hand at making a pizza. Deftness and a light touch go a long way, and at the workstation one sees the precision with which each pizza is made.

Surprisingly, the pizzas at Si Nonna's are numbered, not named. We had prepared Pizza No.3 comprising Kalamata olives, capers, oregano, garlic and fresh basil on a layer of tomato sauce. The result was not a perfect circle, but its taste was point on. We left our next order to the experts while we demolished our handiwork.

Our choice of Pizza No. 10 with Belgian roasted pork bacon and artichokes with pecorino and mozzarella cheeses with fresh basil, was excellent. And of course, that misting of EVOO elevates everything it falls on.

Though there are a range of coffees, we wind up on a sweet note with the blueberry panna cotta and the skillet cookie. While the panna cotta was lovely, creamy and smooth, the cookie served with homemade gelato was absolutely scrumptious – warm and delightful with the chocolatey bits gooey enough to warrant another visit to Si Nonna's.

Sourdough is their specialty and Si Nonna's sticks with it – focaccia, croquettes, pizza and panuozzo – plus prosciutto boards and salads, but there is no pasta on the menu.

Si Nonna's is on the ground floor of Marksquare, St.Marks Road, Bengaluru.

INBRIEF

3 killed as cellar collapses at under-construction site

The cellar of an under-construction hotel collapsed during excavation work, claiming the lives of three migrant workers in the L.B. Nagar area of Hyderabad in Telangana on Wednesday. Several others sustained injuries and were rushed to a private hospital for treatment. According to the police, around 10 workers were engaged in excavation when the mud boundary suddenly caved in. As of Wednesday evening, no case had been registered.

Over 24 spectators injured in football gallery collapse

More than two dozen spectators were injured when a temporary gallery collapsed during a football match at Palakkad district of Kerala on Tuesday night. The accident took place during the final match of a charity football tournament. The injured have been admitted to different hospitals in Palakkad and Malappuram. Police said their injuries were not serious. The stadium was packed and the gallery was overcrowded, said sources. The police are investigating if there were safety norms' violations.

₹20-crore jackpot for Kerala lottery ticket sold in Kannur

Ticket number XD 387132 has won the ₹20-crore first prize of the Christmas-New Year bumper lottery of the Kerala State Lotteries department. The prize-winning ticket was reportedly sold in Kannur district. Finance Minister K.N. Balagopal inaugurated the draw in Thiruvananthapuram on Wednesday. The second prize carries ₹1 crore each for 20 winners. Of the 50 lakh tickets printed, a little over 47,65,650 tickets were sold.

Karnataka High Court issues notice on Vijay Mallya's plea

It was contended that the amount due to the banks had been already recovered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday ordered issue of notice to the debt recovery officer and 10 banks on a petition by fugitive businessman Vijay Mallya seeking directions to banks to provide statement of accounts for the total amount, along with accrued interest, owed by him, the United Breweries Holdings Ltd., (UBHL) and other certificate debtors, and the amount recovered so far in the process of recovery of debts of erstwhile Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.

Justice R. Devdas has adjourned further hearing till February 19.

Senior advocate Sajan Poovayya, appearing for Mr. Mallya, has contended

Vijay Mallya

that even though the amount due to the banks had been already recovered, additional recovery proceedings were still being carried out.

Pointing out that the winding up order against Kingfisher Airlines and its holding company UBHL (which is under liquidation) as well as the parallel process for debt recovery for ₹6,200 crore from primary debtor Kingfisher and its guarantor, UBHL, has attained finality in law, Mr. Poovayya contended that debt was recovered multiple times since 2017.

Claiming that the official liquidator has stated that the banks have received their money from liquidation process and the debt recovery officer has said that ₹10,200 crore has been recovered, it was contended that the debt due to the bank appear to be recovered multiple times from the guarantors, which includes Mr. Mallya.

The court was also informed about the statement of Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Lok Sabha recently that ₹14,131.6 crore has been recovered by public sector banks from the sale of assets belonging to Mr. Mallya. The statement of amounts realised by the banks and details of the original owners of the assets utilised for realising the amounts following amended recovery certificate issued on April 10, 2017, by the Debt Recovery Tribunal, Bengaluru, has also been sought by Mr. Mallya in his petition.

Also, a statement of assets owned by Mr. Mallya, UBHL, and third parties available with the banks, debt recovery officers and the financial reconstruction companies but not yet utilised for the purpose of satisfying the alleged debt owed under the recovery certificate has been sought.

Mr. Mallya has also sought a direction to the debt recovery officer to apply the recoveries made by the sale of all assets restored to the banks under an order passed in May and June 2021.

Court quashes election 'bribery' case against former Minister Krishnaiah Setty

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

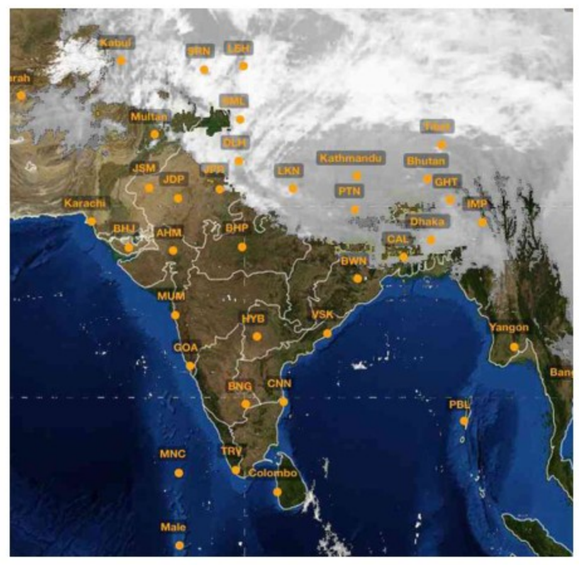
The High Court of Karnataka has quashed a criminal case registered against former Minister S.N. Krishnaiah Setty for storing grocery items worth lakhs of rupees at his house to bribe the voters as he was planning to contest elections to the State Legislative Assembly in April-May 2023. While allowing a petition filed by Mr. Setty against the registration of the First Information Report against him, the court said that Section 171E of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), which prescribes punishment for the offence of bribing the voters, cannot be invoked against Mr. Setty as there was no distribution of grocery items stored at his house.

"What is found in the case at hand is not distribution of ration by the petitioner but stock of ration. Thus, unless the petitioner is caught distributing or anybody else receiving such distribution of ration, would not attract the ingredients of Section 171B (bribing elector) of the IPC for it to become an offence under Section 171E of the IPC," observed Justice M. Nagaprasanna in his recent order.

The officer of the flying squad had raided the petitioner's house and lodged the FIR while alleging that Mr. Setty was a probable candidate to contest from Gandhingar Assembly constituency on the BJP ticket and hence had stored the grocery items to attract votes from the electors.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh and Odisha. Cold wave conditions likely in isolated pockets of Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	27.8	14.6	Kozhikode	—	35.0	24.5
Ahmedabad	—	28.3	11.4	Kurnool	—	37.3	20.6
Aizawl	—	26.2	10.1	Lucknow	—	28.0	14.5
Allahabad	—	27.9	15.4	Madurai	—	34.0	20.4
Bengaluru	—	31.6	17.3	Mangaluru	—	33.5	22.7
Bhopal	—	26.2	14.0	Mumbai	—	32.8	17.4
Bhubaneswar	—	33.8	23.9	Mysuru	—	32.0	12.8
Chandigarh	2	22.4	11.2	New Delhi	—	23.7	11.0
Chennai	—	33.0	23.1	Patna	—	28.6	16.8
Coimbatore	—	33.1	19.6	Port Blair	—	30.7	24.6
Dehradun	0.4	22.6	10.5	Puducherry	—	33.1	22.0
Gangtok	—	13.2	9.0	Pune	—	34.9	19.2
Goa	—	34.0	23.0	Raipur	—	35.0	20.6
Guwahati	—	27.0	14.6	Ranchi	—	30.0	16.8
Hubballi	—	34.0	19.0	Shillong	—	18.0	8.0
Hyderabad	—	34.2	18.9	Shimla	16.2	10.0	3.3
Imphal	—	23.7	12.3	Srinagar	—	14.5	-1.2
Jaipur	—	24.9	11.4	Thiruvananthapuram	—	32.0	24.0
Kochi	—	31.4	24.8	Tiruchi	—	32.5	20.6
Kohima	—	18.6	9.7	Vijayawada	—	35.0	20.4
Kolkata	—	30.0	17.6	Visakhapatnam	—	30.9	22.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.27	..39	47	... 142	...124	
Bengaluru	.15	..32	32	... 209	...124	
Chennai	...7	8	52	 79	...107	
Delhi	.29	179	64	... 317	...293	
Hyderabad	...5	111	..8	... 118	...135	
Kolkata	...9	..55	34	... 212	...144	
Lucknow	..—	..49	50	... 244	...164	
Mumbai	...9	104	28	... 107	...144	
Pune	..—	166	63	 92	...146	
Visakhapatnam	...7	..74	52	... 152	...168	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 328 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Tirunelveli, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 36

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, KNNL, Dandavathi Reservoir Project Division, Shikaripura .Ph:08187-222206

Short Term Tender Notification- 24/2024-25 Date: 31-01-2025
(Two document System & KPPP System only)

Short term percentage tender are invited as per K.P.P.P on behalf of Managing Director KNNL Bangalore from eligible contractors such as KPWD Class-III and Above. The tenderers are required to submit tenders only through K.P.P. portal of Govt of Karnataka (http:// www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in). **Repairs and Improvements works for Tanks, Waste weir and channels (02 works) in Soraba Taluk of Shivamogga dist. Amount put to tender Rs. 109.86 Lakhs to Rs. 29.85 Lakhs and EMD Rs. 1.87 Lakhs to Rs. 0.51 lakhs**

(1) Date of Pre bid meeting for Sl. No 01 work: **10-02-2025 @11.00AM. (O/o Executive Engineer, KNNL, DRP Division Shikaripura Shivamogga District** (2) Date of downloading & submission of tender (through KPPP) **will be on 04.02.2025 to 12.02.2025 up to 5.30 PM** (3) Opening of technical bid will be **on 14-02-2025 @ 11.00 AM** (4) **Financial bid will be opened after approval of technical bid.**

For more details visit website from date-04.02.2025 at (http:// www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).

DIPR/SMG/No.19-02 zenkar/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL, DRP Division, Shikaripura

MINOR IRRIGATION & GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION & G.W.D DIVISION, TUMKUR
Ref No.10/2024-25 KW-1, KW-2 (TWO COVER SYSTEM) KPPP Portal DT: 01-02-2025 KPPP Portal DT.01.02.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFFICATION
Dated 01.02.2025

On behalf of the Hon'ble Governor of State of Karnataka, as per K.T.P.P act with latest amendments, Item wise "KPPP" Portal tenders are invited for the works mentioned under H/A : 4702-TSP, 4702-Modernization of tanks- Major works, 4702 Anecut & Pickup-Major works & Atal Bhujal Yojana from the eligible contractors of suitable category registered under KPWD. Tender publishing details are as given below.

1. Tender will be published through KPPP Portal on: Dated: 05-02-2025 at 16.00 Hours. 2. Last date of queries on Dated: 10-02-2025 at 11.30 Hours. 3. Last date for Receipt of completed tenders through KPPP portal may be uploaded before 17.00 Hours on Dated: 13-02-2025. 4. Technical Bid will be opened on Dated: 14-02-2025 at 17.05 Hours. 5. Financial Bid will be opened on Dated: 15-02-2025 at 17.10 Hours.

For further details, visit KPP portal website https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ or from the office undersigned, on working days. If the office happens to be closed on dates above as specified, the next working day at the same time and venue will be considered.

DIPR/TUM/614/KSMCA/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.I & G.W.D Division, Tumkur

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Ele), South Zone, Jayanagar 2nd Block, BBMP, Bengaluru.

No. BBMP/EE/ELE/SOUTH/TEND/12/2024-25 Date: 05.02.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer (Ele), South Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender
1	Providing Ornamental & Architectural Lighting Fixtures to Parks, Lakes and Towers under Brand Bengaluru - Vibrant Bengaluru coming under BBMP Limits.	Rs. 804.00 lakhs
	EMD : Rs. 12.06 lakhs (Rs. 2.00 lakhs shall be paid through online payment in KPP portal and remaining Rs. 10.06 lakhs shall be paid through Bank Guarantee.	

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 07.02.2025. (2)** Last date for tender queries / clarifications: **13.02.2025 by 16.00 hrs. (3)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting **: 14.02.2025 at 11.30 hrs. (4)** Last date for submission of tenders: **24.02.2025 by 16.00 hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **25.02.2025 at 16.30 hrs. (6)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **28.02.2025 at 11.00 hrs.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer (Ele) South Zone, BBMP

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that our Clients have negotiated to purchase the Schedule Property from Mr. RAVI KUMAR. T, and Mrs. RAJAMMA. R, W/o. Mr. Ravi Kumar for valuable sale consideration. Any person(s) claiming any right, title or interest of whatsoever nature over the schedule property is called upon to lodge such claim with undersigned, with supporting document within 15 days from the date of publication. In the event no such claim(s) is received within the stipulated time, it would be presumed that no valid claim(s) subsists, and our client would not be bound by any claims lodged after the said period.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property presently bearing Site No. 20, constructed building with Basement and 4 upper floors, formed in Sy. No. 53/1 and 53/2, Old Katha No. 459, Janjar No. 351, Property No. 345/20, Presently comes under jurisdiction of Bommasandra Purasabha Assessment/Katha No. 432/351/345/20/2, Site area Measuring: 4117 Sq.Ft., Situated at: Bommasandra Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore City Dist., Which is converted from Agricultural to Non Agricultural Residential purpose vide Conversion Order bearing No. BDIS.ALN.SR(A):45/1988-89, Dated: 23-08-1991, order issued by the Hon'ble District Collector, Bangalore District, Bangalore, and bounded on, East by: Private Property; West by: Bangalore – Hosur Road; North by: Site No. 19; South by: Remaining Portion of Same Site No. 20.

N. Somashekhar
M/s. Sri Sai Law Associates, Advocate,
No. 67/3, Benaka Complex, Hennagara Gate, Bommasandra, Bangalore 560099, Karnataka.
Email: sailawassociates997@gmail.com

ମୁଖ୍ୟ ନିର୍ମାଣ ଯନ୍ତ୍ରୀଙ୍କ କାର୍ଯ୍ୟାଳୟ
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(ଗ୍ରାମ୍ୟ / ପୋଷ୍ଟ- ଆମ୍ବପୁଆ, ଆୟକର ଭବନ ନିକଟରେ, , ବ୍ରହ୍ମପୁର - ୬୭୦୦୧୧, ଗଞ୍ଜାମ, ଓଡିଶା

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, BERHAMPUR
(At/Po :- Ambapua, Near Income Tax Office, Berhampur-760011, Ganjam, Odisha)
(E-Mail:- serwbpr2004@yahoo.com; Tel No.:-0680-2404287)

No. e-tender //324 // RWC// BAM// Dated 04/02/2025 E-Mail/E-despatch

2nd Corrigendum to Bid Identification No. Online Tender / 22-2024-25/BPR

1) The partial modification of Road works under MMSY-TRIP (Balance Work) vide above identification has been made as follows.

1.	Date of availability of tender	:	**10.02.2025 to 24.02.2025 upto 5.30 PM** instead of 30.01.2025 to 14.02.2025 up to 5.30 PM
2.	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	:	**21.02.2025 at 5.30 PM** instead of 12.02.2025 at 5.30 PM
3.	Date of opening of Technical Bid	:	**25.02.2025 at 11.00 AM** instead of 15.02.2025 at 11.00 AM
4.	Date of opening of Financial Bid	:	**Will be intimated later on.**

All other contents will remain unchanged.

Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Berhampur
O-1417 : OIPR-25071/11/0047/2425

RAICHUR URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, RAICHUR

: RUDA/TECH/CA/ALLOT/2024-25/ DATE: 03-02-2025

Notification for Civic Amenity Sites Allotment:

Karnataka Urban Development Authorities (Civic Amenities Allotment) Rules 1991 U/s 3(3)

The Raichur Urban Development Authority has invited applications for allotment of Civic Amenity Siteson the basis of 30 years Lease Agreement available in the approved private layouts of its project area to Central Government / State Government Organizations, Aided Government Organizations and Eligible Trusts/Societies/ Organizations.

* The prescribed application form can be obtained at the office of the authority by payment of Rs.1,000/- The completed application form should be submitted to the Commissioner, Raichur Urban Development Authority, Raichur on or before Date: 14-02-2025 at 05-30 pm. Subsequent applications or applications that have not been filled properly will be rejected without consideration.

* Further information / details can be made to the Office of the Authority during office hours and has been published to the Index.

Sd/- Commissioner Urban Development Authority, Raichur.

Sd/- Chairman, Urban Development Authority, Raichur.

DIP/RCR/718/KSMCA/719/2024-25

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned by Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal only)

The Chief Engineer Ele., Bangalore Rural Area Zone, BESCOM, Bengaluru invites the following tenders for **"Segregation of the existing agricultural loads from the existing Non agri feeders"** on **Total Turnkey** and **PERCENTAGE QUOTE BASIS** in various sub-divisions of BRAZ jurisdiction for a period of one year through KPP portal in Two Cover system.

Enquiry No.s for SC category	Enquiry No.s for ST category	Enquiry No.s for CAT-I Category	Enquiry No.s for CAT-II-(A) Category	Enquiry No.s for Others
CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2/24-25/ ET- 19, 30, 31, 46, 47, 57, 65, 66, 71, 73, 75 and 78	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2/24-25/ ET 38, 39, 59, 68 and 79	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2/24-25/ ET 18, 54 and 60	CEBRAZ/SEO/ AEE-1/2/24-25/ ET 20, 35, 37, 40, 45, 53,74, 76, 81 and 82	CEBRAZ/SEO/AEE-1/2/24-25 /ET 17,21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 32,33,34,36,41,42, 43,44,48, 49, 50, 51, 52,55, 56, 58, 61, 62, 63, 64, 67, 69, 70, 72, 77, 80, 83 and 84

Time Schedule: (1) Bid document available on e-portal: 15.02.2025 onwards. (2) Pre-Bid meeting: 21.02.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs. (3) Last date for submission of bid document: 03.03.2025 upto 17:00 Hrs. (4) Date and Time of opening technical bid: 05.03.2025 @ 11:00 Hrs.

Note: The EMD shall be paid is 2% for the amount put to tender for General category subject to minimum of Rs. 50,000/-

Incase of SC , ST , CAT -I, CAT –II (A) category, the EMD shall be paid is 1% for the amount put to tender subject to minimum of Rs. 25,000/-

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPPP portal from the website kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in. on or after 15-02-2025 Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. All the payments such as tender processing fee, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further any clarification contact help desk 080-8046010000, 080-806894877 OR e-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com

For electricity related complaints Call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy., BRAZ, BESCOM

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Public Works Department)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Public Works Department, Division: Yadgir.
GSTIN:29BLR002252F1DR

No.EE/PWD/Divn/YDG/TS-1/e-Tender/2024-25/ 3064 Dated: 03.02.2025

Short Term e-Tender Notification

1) Details of works:On behalf of Governor of Karnataka as per KTPP Amendment 1999-2000 Act 2000 Standard Bid Document KW-3 & 4 Karnataka Public Works Department invited item Rate Tender under KPPP Portal in Two Cover System from Eligible Agency/Contractors for following works Under KKRDB for the year 2024-25 Under Yadgir Division-(1)17690 (2)17691 (3) 17692 (4) 16219 and (5) 16497 Total 05 (Five) works Tender Called **2) Amount Put to Tender:** Miminimum Rs 57.00 Lakhs and Maximum Rs.200.00 Lakhs **3) Contractor Eligible Details:** Civil Class-III & Above **4) Tender Procesing Fee and EMD Details:** Tender Fee, EMD & Period as per kppp portal, **5) Last Date & Time for Tender Pre-Bid Meeting:**19.02.2025 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **6) Last Date & Time for Tender queries/Clarification:** 21.02.2025 (Upto 17.30 hrs) **7) Last Date & Time for Reciept of the tender in e-KPPP portal :**24.02.2025 (Upto 16.00 hrs) **8) Date & Time of Opening of the Tender/Technical Bid:** 25.02.2025 (16.30 hrs Onwards) **9) Date & Time of Opening of the Financial Bid:** 27.02.2025 (11.30 hrs Onwards) **10) For More Details Contact:** Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division: Yadgir. **11) Website Address:** https:// kppp.karnataka.gov.in

NOTE: Any Corrections / Changes will be updated in the kppp Portal only

DIP/YDG/462/KSMC&A/2024-25
Sd/- Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Yadgir.

Not worth the risk

India must address illegal emigration with empathy and urgency

The deportation of dozens of Indians, believed to be illegal immigrants in the United States, is neither surprising nor unprecedented. Over the past few years, the U.S. government has intensified its Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations to identify, detain, and deport individuals without proper documentation. For instance, between June and October 2024, the Department of Homeland Security reported that 1,60,000 individuals had been deported on 495 international repatriation flights to more than 145 countries, including India. However, the manner and timing should be cause for concern for New Delhi. To begin with, these deportations coincide with a major crackdown by ICE, spurred by Donald Trump's swearing-in as the U.S. President in January. He has made illegal immigration his "number one priority". India, which has one of the largest populations of illegal immigrants in the U.S., estimated at 7,25,000 undocumented individuals, will need to prepare for a significant increase in the number of returning migrants. Second, for the first time, the use of military flights signals that the U.S. does not intend to be challenged. This move drew protests from Colombian President Gustavo Petro, particularly after reports emerged of deported migrants being shackled. The U.S. Embassy in Delhi has also made it clear that this deportation is part of a broader initiative to tighten immigration laws and enforcement, reinforcing the message that illegal migration is not worth the risk. Further, the timing, just ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's U.S. visit, suggests that diplomatic efforts alone may not be enough to deter the Trump administration from pursuing such measures. This has the potential to become a bilateral flashpoint in India-U.S. relations.

Accepting its citizens, provided they are verifiably Indian and have entered other countries illegally, is undoubtedly the Indian government's responsibility. However, stricter controls must be enforced to prevent Indians from embarking on perilous journeys to cross into the U.S. via Mexico and Canada. The government must ensure that young people in States with high deportation rates (Gujarat, Punjab, and Haryana), understand that working illegally abroad is not a guaranteed path to success. Educational campaigns should highlight the dangers associated with illegal immigration. Importantly, the root causes must not be ignored. The central and State governments must address the underlying economic distress, deepening agricultural crises, social tensions, and employment shortages that push people to take such risks. Attention must be paid to those who deliberately travel to conflict zones in search of opportunities. While altering U.S. immigration policies may be difficult, the Indian government must address the reasons behind this large-scale migration with empathy and urgency.

A tough call

The rupee's slide confounds monetary policymakers' task

The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) will conclude its first policy review of 2025 on Friday, in significantly different circumstances from its December meet. For one, the key personnel have changed. The RBI has a new Governor, with former Revenue Secretary Sanjay Malhotra replacing Shaktikanta Das soon after the last review. Deputy Governor Michael Patra, an MPC member who was in charge of monetary policy, also retired last month. With the Centre yet to name his successor, navigating this review is going to be a tad tricky for the new central bank boss, with another deputy holding additional charge of monetary policy. Second, the rupee is in a free fall of sorts. After hitting 85 to the U.S. dollar on December 19, 2024, it slipped to 86 on January 13, 2025 and crossed 87 on February 3, partly due to the third factor at work. The strengthening dollar is driven by U.S. President Donald Trump's overdrive to 'Make America Great Again' with higher tariffs on major trade partners, and other disruptive economic plans such as exiting global tax accords, shutting aid flows, *et al*.

One thing has not changed – the clamour for an interest rate cut from industry and government honchos. In December, this noise was heightened after a sharp growth blip in the July-September quarter when GDP grew just 5.4%. Now, with 2024-25 GDP growth downgraded to just 6.4%, and the no marked uptick in economic metrics in the December-ending quarter, growth worries remain entrenched. In the interim, there has been some back and forth between North Block and Mint Street on the factors responsible for stumbling economic activity. The Finance Ministry sought to lay some of the blame for an urban demand slump on tight monetary policy. RBI officials, in the central bank's January bulletin, said the "one way" to spark a growth rebound and a virtuous cycle of fresh private investments, is to boost consumption through higher disposable incomes, especially for the urban middle class that has been pining for relief from food inflation. With the Budget delivering on this front with income tax cuts, the ball is back in the RBI's court. Inflation has been over 5% in the last five months, but may have eased closer to the RBI's 4% target in January. But a rate cut could also hurt the rupee further, and spur higher imported inflation. It is an unenviable situation for the new RBI chief to be in; he might be tempted to take a cue from Mr. Das who had surprised markets with a rate cut in the first review under his watch in 2019, reversing his predecessor's stance.

A Budget that is mostly good but with one wrong move

C. Rangarajan

is Chairman, Madras School of Economics and a former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

D.K. Srivastava

is Honorary Professor, Madras School of Economics and Member, Advisory Council to the Sixteenth Finance Commission

Some of the measures indicated in the Budget could have been implemented even earlier; moving away from 'fiscal deficit' as an indicator is an incorrect step

The Union Budget has got many things right. Its projection of nominal GDP growth for 2025-26, at 10.1%, is reasonable and acceptable. The Economic Survey 2024-25 had indicated a real GDP growth in the range of 6.3%-6.8% for 2025-26. This provides some buffer if growth picks up more. The increase in the capital expenditure of the government in 2025-26 over the revised estimates of 2024-25 is estimated at ₹1.03 lakh crore. But the capital expenditures in 2025-26, at ₹11.2 lakh crore, are nearly the same as was indicated in the Budget of 2024-25 at ₹11.1 lakh crore.

The overarching aim of the Budget was to accelerate growth and push India towards a developed country status. The required rate of real growth to achieve this is estimated differently including a rate of 8% in the Economic Survey for 2024-25. In any case, the country needs a definite pickup in growth rate. The various measures indicated in the Budget are welcome. In fact, some of these could have been implemented even earlier. The concession given to the 'middle-class' in terms of income-tax is welcome as a relief. But its impact on demand depends on the marginal propensity to consume of the households who are expected to largely benefit from these concessions and their consumption basket.

Gross tax revenues

Growth in the Government of India's gross tax revenues (GTR) have trended downwards in recent years. The buoyancy of GTR has fallen for three successive years from 1.4 in 2023-24 to 1.15 in 2024-25 (RE) and then to 1.07 in 2025-26 (BE). As a result, growth in the Government of India's GTR has kept falling from 13.5% in 2023-24 to 11.2% in 2024-25 (RE), and to 10.8% in 2025-26 (BE). Within the government's tax revenues, the growth rate of Goods and Services Tax (GST) has also fallen from 12.7% in 2023-24 to 10.9% in 2025-26 (BE).

In fact, the structure of the government's taxation has moved away from indirect to direct taxes. The share of direct taxes in the government's GTR has increased from 52% in 2021-22 to 59% in 2025-26 (BE) which is a welcome development. Within direct taxes, however, it is personal income-tax which has performed better than corporate income-tax in terms of growth and buoyancy.

However, even in the case of personal income-tax there has been a fall in growth from 25.4% in 2023-24 to 20.3% in 2024-25 (RE) and 14.4% in 2025-26 (BE). This fall in growth in 2025-26 (BE) is partly due to the announced income-tax concessions. In the case of corporate income-tax, the growth in 2024-25 (RE) is quite low at 7.6%. This growth has been raised to 10.4% in 2025-26 (BE). On the whole, assumptions regarding the government's tax revenue growth in 2025-26 (BE) appear to be realistic.

In the case of non-tax revenues, the main contribution has been in the form of dividends from the Reserve Bank of India and public sector companies, which together accounted for about ₹3.25 lakh crore in 2025-26 – an increase of ₹35,715 crore over the revised estimates. Thus, the non-tax revenues have been raised from ₹5.3 lakh crore (RE) to ₹5.8 lakh crore in 2025-26 (BE).

Level of government expenditure

Tax and non-tax revenues, non-debt capital receipts and fiscal deficit together determine the size of government expenditure. As discussed, a gross tax revenue growth at a lower level of 10.8% appears to be realistic. Given the commitment to fiscal consolidation, the size of government expenditure as a percentage of GDP had to be reduced from 14.6% in 2024-25 (RE) to 14.2% in 2025-26 (BE). Growth in total expenditure, at 7.6% in 2025-26 (BE), is lower than the budgeted nominal GDP growth at 10.1%.

In fact, this was so even in 2024-25 (RE), when the government's total expenditure growth was 6.1% as against the nominal GDP growth of 9.7% as per the first advanced estimates. However, there has been a steady improvement in the quality of government expenditure as the share of capital expenditure in total expenditure has been improving. In fact, this share has improved by 10% points over the period from 2020-21 to 2025-26 (BE). Given the contemporary context, the Government of India has to build up large-scale Artificial Intelligence (AI) infrastructure in order to facilitate the adoption of emerging technologies. In this context, China has taken a clear lead. The United States has recently announced an investment of $500 billion for AI infrastructure. In the field of AI, India's technology companies have failed to anticipate developments. India should have done what China did. Perhaps, India should push these companies for research and development, by offering some tax concessions, if necessary.

A less transparent fiscal health indicator

One wrong measure introduced in the Budget is to move away from fiscal deficit as an indicator of fiscal prudence. Contrary to what is stated in the Budget document, we are moving from a transparent to a less transparent indicator. As per the glide path given in the Medium-Term Fiscal Policy Cum Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement of the 2024-25 Budget, the fiscal deficit was to be brought down to below 4.5% by 2025-26.

However, in the 2025-26 Budget, the practice of giving a glide path in terms of fiscal deficit is being discontinued. It has been stated that from now on, the focus will be on reducing the debt-GDP ratio annually. In the annexure statement titled 'Statements of Fiscal Policy as required under the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003', alternative paths of the debt-GDP ratio with nominal GDP growth assumptions of 10.0%, 10.5% and 11.0% are given.

The glide paths are indicated in terms of alternative growth assumptions and alternative assumptions regarding mild, moderate, and high degrees of fiscal consolidation. This makes the whole exercise vague and non-transparent. It is better for fiscal discipline to indicate specific fiscal deficit target for different years and the corresponding debt-GDP ratios for those years. It should clearly be shown by what year the FRBM Act targets are to be achieved. A larger claim on the available investible resources by the government will make it difficult for private investment to pick up.

The views expressed are personal

A green signal for India to assert its health leadership

Dr. Prathap C. Reddy

is Founder and Chairman, Apollo Hospitals

The Budget has recognised the role of health care as a pillar of national growth and development

The Union Budget 2025-26 lays a robust foundation for India to assert its leadership in global health care and innovation, with strategic announcements that bolster medical infrastructure, expand educational opportunities, and promote global collaboration.

With a ₹90,958 crore health-care allocation, the addition of 75,000 medical seats over the next five years, and investments in daycare cancer centres, India is poised to enhance both accessibility and quality of care. The country will add 10,000 medical seats in FY26 alone, underscoring its commitment to health-care excellence.

India's health-care transformation

This Budget underscores India's remarkable journey of progress, from the 1980s when it grappled with limited medical infrastructure, to its current status as a global health-care leader. The transformation has been nothing short of extraordinary.

Recently, the writer had the privilege of presenting two key recommendations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi: first, establishing India as the global health-care destination, and second, addressing the global shortfall of health-care professionals. It has been a delight to see both these ideas in action through the 'Heal in India' and 'Heal by India' initiatives. With streamlined visa processes, enhanced hospital infrastructure, and robust public-private partnerships, India is poised to become the preferred medical destination for international patients.

Simultaneously, the country is addressing the global shortfall of health-care professionals by training and deploying more doctors, nurses, and paramedics abroad. This will ensure that Indian expertise supports health-care systems worldwide while creating new opportunities for our skilled professionals.

Customs duty exemptions, tech outlook

Moreover, it is commendable that the growing burden of non-communicable diseases such as cancer has been acknowledged in this Budget. The establishment of 200 day-care cancer centres in district hospitals will bring specialised treatment closer to people, improving early diagnosis and better patient outcomes.

The customs duty exemption on 36 life-saving drugs, including those for cancer, rare diseases, and chronic conditions will lower the cost of treatments, in turn, benefiting thousands of patients across the country. Also, the addition of 13 new patient assistance programmes would also improve access to critical medications for patients, particularly those with chronic conditions.

The emphasis on Artificial Intelligence and digital health marks a pivotal moment for the future of India's health care. The new National Centres of Excellence will spearhead innovation in diagnostics, treatment, and research, enabling India to develop cutting-edge solutions that enhance patient care.

The writer believes that the introduction of cutting-edge technologies to deliver quality health care has strengthened India's position as a global health-care player. Both private and public hospitals have played an integral role in this progress. Apollo was the first hospital to launch Proton therapy for advanced cancer care in this part of the world and continues to attract patients from countries such as Australia and the United Kingdom to name a few.

Build on the momentum

This Budget clearly recognises the government's vision for – and demonstration of bold leadership in recognising – health care as a pillar of national growth and development. From a country that once struggled to provide basic medical care, we have evolved into a nation offering world-class treatment to millions. Through the synergy of Heal in India, Heal by India, and innovation-driven care, we are shaping a future where India's health-care system sets new global benchmarks.

It is our collective responsibility now to build on this momentum – by embracing technology, strengthening medical education, and ensuring that health care reaches every individual in need.

India is not just healing its own people; it is healing the world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Deportation begins

It is clear that U.S. President Donald Trump means business when it comes to the subject of immigration (Page 1, "U.S. deports Indians as Trump tightens immigration rules", February 5). The 'bromance' that India's leader has tried to portray with the American President and his use of other terms of familiarity such as 'Trump, my dear friend' have made no difference. The choice of using an American military plane has been explicable in terms of Mr. Trump's description of "undocumented immigrants" as "aliens", "criminals" and "invaders". The deportation of Indians should strengthen our resolve to make India a land of opportunity.

G. David Milton,
Maruthancode, Tamil Nadu

It is surprising to know that there are thousands of illegal and undocumented Indian migrants in the U.S. The Government of India needs to ponder over why so many Indians are taking enormous risks to migrate to the U.S. Primarily, it is an issue about mounting unemployment. Our economy has been portrayed as experiencing sustained and fast growth, but employment generation has not been commensurate with this 'economic growth'.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

The use of U.S. military aircraft is probably aimed at demonstrating Mr. Trump's muscular image. India has allowed itself to be bracketed with countries such as Guatemala, Peru, Honduras and Ecuador without demur. What happened to India's much touted 'national pride' under a new virile dispensation?

Manohar Alembath,
Kannur, Kerala

In the midst of this, imagine if millions of skilled Indian migrants, pivotal to the U.S. economy, chose to remigrate to India. This "brain (re)gain" would result in a transformative leap for India. Armed with global expertise in technology, health care, and finance, these professionals could supercharge India's growth fuelling innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation. Their return would boost sectors such as Artificial Intelligence, biotech, and sustainable energy.

Gopalaswamy J.,
Chennai

Interestingly, there are media reports that there are an estimated 7,25,000 illegal Indian immigrants in the U.S. It is also said that most are from the northern Indian States, including Gujarat. But the big question is why is there this desperation to leave India?

Bidyut Kumar Chatterjee,
Faridabad, Haryana

It is true that America has been considered a land of immigrants for years. But things have changed and there is a gradual vanishing of that vision. Issues of land, jobs and everyday requirements have become matters of grave concern necessitating a dampening of migration and asylum processes. The world is politically and administratively divided into large and definite numbers of individual states, with each nation bound to take care of its citizens. Moving to other countries without legal procedures naturally attracts public opposition.

P.R.V. Raja,
Pandalam, Kerala

The optics

At a time when a large number of relatives are at the Kumbh looking for their loved ones, the move by the top leader of the land to have a holy dip there is insensitive. It is needless to say that the leader has sent out a not-so-subtle political message of his continuing strategy to consolidate the vote base that backs his party. Such a mix of politics and religion to influence voters' preference is anathema to our constitutional values.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Nursing, dress allowance

I write this letter as the State President (Jammu and Kashmir) of the All India Registered Nurses Federation (AIRNF). The AIRNF has been working towards the welfare of nursing personnel across India. Recently, the AIRNF has highlighted the issue of the 'non-sanctioning of nursing and dress allowance to nursing personnel' in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The AIRNF has been requesting the government to grant the nursing and dress allowance to nursing personnel in J&K, citing the example of the Union Territory of Ladakh, where such allowances have already been sanctioned. The Principal Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Union Territory of Ladakh, has issued orders No.300-H&ME(UTL) of 2021 and No.301-H&ME(UTL) of 2021, sanctioning the payment of nursing allowance and dress allowance to nursing personnel in Ladakh. Nursing personnel in J&K demand equal treatment.

Vishav Mohan Sharma,
Rajouri, Jammu and Kashmir

Chennai and safety

The incidents of women and girls being assaulted and molested in Chennai make one wonder whether the reputation of Chennai being a haven of peace, and earning an indubitable name for safety, where women can commute without any lurking fear, is under threat. When the political opposition was harping on the subject of safety, one was led to believe that it was attacking the DMK-ruled Tamil Nadu out of animus. But the problem does seem serious.

Mani Nataraajan,
Chennai

The other chess star

Indian chess prodigy R. Praggnanandhaa's title win against compatriot and world champion D. Gukesh in the Tata Steel Masters tournament 2025 signals India's ascending trajectory in global chess. It is a fine example to show that age is not a barrier to excellence.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A lesson from the Democrats' 'woke' debacle

Anando Bhakto

Journalist covering politics and the Kashmir conflict

Donald Trump's return to the White House is an important lesson not just for Democrats, but political actors everywhere who are attempting to contain burgeoning right-of-centre politics and powerful demagogues.

Mr. Trump won both the electoral college vote and the popular vote. This underlines that the anxiety of democracy's defenders over the erosion of the constitutional order is not the people's anxiety or even their preoccupation. The people do not have revulsion for dictatorial aspirations if they are enticed with a story promising them a better future and protection of interests.

Two countries, two campaigns

As Mr. Trump strengthened his commitment to bring back manufacturing jobs, there was reason to harbour hope. In his insistence to make the U.S. less interventionist and focus on fixing domestic issues such as "porous borders", which, he said, led to "criminals pouring in" and absorbing job opportunities, there was protection of interest.

Democratic Party candidate Kamala Harris highlighted the machinations against democracy, but in making it her overriding theme, she renewed concerns about her being "woke", which in contemporary political lexicon indicates extravagant positions on DEI (diversity, equity, inclusion). Her message was repudiated.

In India, Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's "*mohabbat ki dukan*" (shop of love) looks like an adaptation of America's woke culture, which frames the pro-democracy argument in a narrow term of merely opposing an autocrat. But for the poor, democracy is less about waging war against an autocrat to preserve institutions and the social fabric and more about immediate economic redress. The farmers' movement was a powerful exposition of dissent against an autocratic regime, but the poor did not desert the Prime Minister, given his government's wide-scale distribution of economic incentives.

Ms. Harris's and Mr. Gandhi's campaign relied too much on fighting for the liberal order. There was little reckoning that the reason why demagogues are able to sway voters is because their dishonest accounts have already rendered the liberal order as a dire threat for the majority, who are willing to be partners to upend it.

Mr. Trump pledged to upend an order beset by "fleeing jobs", "critical race theory", and "criminals pouring in" with the MAGA (Make America Great Again) movement. Mr. Modi offered "Hindu reawakening". Anti-Trumpism in that backdrop was interpreted as hurtling towards catastrophe where outsiders augmented their interests at the expense of white Americans. Anti-Modism is interpreted as the Congress' unease with placing the priorities of Hindus on top.

A pragmatic course would be to engage the electorate with a more tempting narrative while avoiding collision on sensitive areas. In 2020, the Biden campaign had underlined that the election was not a "partisan moment" but an "American moment". The message went home to disillusioned Trump voters, unlike Ms. Harris' and Hillary Clinton's campaigns which focused only on anti-Trumpians. Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal understands that calculus. In 2022, when asked about his party's goalpost, he remarked: "I don't want to defeat anyone, I want the country to win."

The attractive alternative vision for the country must emanate from people's expectations. Ms. Harris' campaign miscalculated what the people expected. For long she upheld several consuming obsessions of the Left including a single-payer health insurance system and ban on fracking. It lent Mr. Trump an effective arsenal: "Comrade Kamala" scare. His share of the Hispanic voters, many of whom have fled communist regimes, jumped from 32% in 2020 to 46% in 2024, said Edison Research.

The attractive alternative vision for a country must emanate from people's expectations

The Congress' mistakes

In berating big businessmen every day, the Congress also miscalculates expectations, especially of India's aspirational class, no longer just the metropolitan and tier one population. India's youth share the conviction that for the country to grow, business people have a crucial role to play as wealth generators and job creators. They demand a coherent plan propelling India's growth.

The Congress offers none. Its dole-out politics has been partly successful in Assembly elections. But the people are not content with relief; they want infatuation with a dream. MAGA induces it and *Achhe Din* induced it. The caste census does not. MAGA and *Achhe Din* will (mythically) come for everybody. But the caste census will benefit only the Other Backward Classes. It hinders Congress' ability to reckon with diverse demographics. Also, given the party's unease with Mandal politics, its sudden fidelity for it appears insufferably convenient.

Today, the idea of a supremely assertive prime minister who can be trusted to place a positive spin to advance India's lofty global role has become a desideratum for most voters. But the Congress' over-reliance on regional parties, who deny it a frontal role and have hardly an effective geopolitical road map, reduces its appeal.

The Congress must exude the air of being in command and declare that it will partner with only those who accept its pre-eminent role and its vision on national security and India's international goalposts, or else sit in Opposition. This would send out a message that it does not have avarice for power but seeks power to secure the people's interest and India's interest. The allies will not disappear – they need it as it needs them. But before allies and the people believe in its leadership, the Congress has to exhibit leadership.

Targeting a Dravidian icon

Tamil nationalists are trying to weaken Dravidian parties by targeting Periyar

STATE OF PLAY

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Periyar E.V. Ramasamy, social reformer and founder of the Dravidar Kazhagam, remains the central point of political discourse in Tamil Nadu decades after his passing in 1973. It has become difficult to eliminate Periyar from the ideological spectrum – so much so that even one of Tamil cinema's biggest stars, C. Joseph Vijay, declared him one of the guiding lights of his fledgling party, Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam. The followers of Periyar insist that but for him and his reformist movement, Tamil Nadu would not have made strides in various fields.

However, in recent weeks, Seeman, the chief coordinator of Naam Tamilar Katchi, a Tamil nationalist party that polled over 8% of the votes in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, has made Periyar the main target of his attack. Mr. Seeman has selectively resurrected Periyar's long-forgotten comments against Tamil language, literature, and culture to portray him as "anti-Tamil".

Tamil nationalists seeking to replace the Dravidian movement have begun to blame Periyar and his ideology as the root cause of what they call the "evils ravaging Tamil society." They reject the term "Dravida" to collectively address the people of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka, and are highly critical of Periyar's comments that "Tamil is a barbaric language." They often say that Periyar's so-called hatred for Tamil language and culture stems from his origin as a Kannada Naicker. They are in fact more vocal about their criticism of Periyar than

Brahmins, who were consigned to the margins in the wake of the emergence of the Dravidian movement.

Periyar was never consistent with his views. He reconsidered them according to the changing circumstances, with good intention. "His five decades of public life have seen several political storms and shifting stands. But through all this he has remained unswerving in his fierce determination to 'liberate' Tamilians from the shackles of superstition, religion and God," wrote the communist leader, Mythili Sivaraman, in her article, 'The Relevance of Periyar: Caste or Class Struggle', which is part of the book *Haunted by Fire: Essays on Caste, Class, Exploitation, and Emancipation*.

As an iconoclast, wedded to the idea of rationalism, Periyar rejected all ideas that were incompatible with science and denigrated human dignity. He launched scathing attacks against Tamil literary works, including the *Kambaramayam*, *Silapathikaram*, and even the *Tirukkural*, idolised by his disciples C.N. Annadurai, M. Karunanidhi, and others. He was furious when a Tamil scholar in Pachaiyappa's College justified the decision of Kovalan, the hero of *Silappathikaram*, to leave his wife Kannagi "because she was not attractive". Sivaraman wrote, "Periyar... championed the cause of widow marriage, marriage based on consent, women's right to divorce to property, abortion and birth control. He... exposed the male superiority inherent in the concepts of chastity like karpu and pathivirathi that apply to women."

Though Annadurai left Periyar to launch the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) as an antidote to the hardcore atheism preached by his mentor, Periyar's principles remained a guiding force for Dravidian parties. Both Annadurai and Karunanidhi were at one point highly critical of Periyar and lampooned him through their writings and cartoons, but they could not fully eschew his ideology.

Periyar believed that Tamil society could not be liberated without breaking the backbone of Brahminsim, rooted in the concept of caste hierarchy by birth. The Bharatiya Janata Party could not make substantial progress in Tamil Nadu despite its campaign against Dravidian parties since humanism is the bedrock of Dravidianism. Mr. Seeman, who has an unmatched talent for stirring controversies, has targeted Periyar even though he was once his admirer. Tamil nationalists seem to think that they can weaken Dravidian parties only by undermining Periyar's principles.

Tamils have protected their language and culture from the onslaught of Sanskrit and from centuries of conquests by non-Tamil rulers. Tamil Nadu has had non-Tamil Chief Ministers. Tamil nationalists argue that the Dravidian movement has failed to ensure a place for Tamils and has allowed non-Tamils to dominate the public and political sphere. Such arguments are bound to be put forth since identity politics has occupied central stage in Indian politics. It remains to be seen whether people will take the 'Periyar versus Tamil nationalism' bait.

The rise and rise of UPI digital payments

There has been a 10-fold increase in digital payments from 2018

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

Digital payments increased more than 3.5 times in value between 2013 and 2024 – from ₹772 lakh crore to ₹2,758 lakh crore. They grew in volume from 222 crore to more than 20,787 crore in the same period. In the last five years alone, digital payments in India increased by 1.6 times in value and 6.7 times in volume, as per the RBI's Payment System Report.

The payments landscape in India is mainly driven by the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), which consolidates multiple bank accounts into one mobile interface.

Chart 1 shows the comparison of UPI and other payment methods in digital transactions over the years. UPI's contribution to the digital payments ecosystem in terms of volume rose from 34% in 2019 to 83% in 2024. While the volume of transactions through UPI increased by 46 times between 2018 and 2024, from 375 crore in to 17,221 crore, other methods of digital payments doubled to 3,566 crore. Overall, there was a 10-fold increase in digital payments to 20,787 crore from 2018.

Chart 2 shows UPI transaction volumes and values since 2019. While the volume surged from 1,078.75 crore in 2019 to 1,7220.80 crore in 2024, values increased from ₹18.37 lakh crore to ₹246.83 lakh crore in the same period.

Charts 3 and 4 show the volume and value of UPI transactions Person-to-Person (P2P) and Person-to-Merchant (P2M). P2M transactions grew at a faster rate than P2P in terms of volume.

Charts 5 and 6 show the share of various digital payment methods in the volume and value of transactions in 2024. Though UPI accounted for over 80% of all digital transactions by volume, it constituted just 30% in terms of value.

Payments revolution

Data for the charts was taken from the RBI's Payment System Report, December 2024

Digital payments increased more than 3.5 times in value between 2013 and 2024

UPI contribution to the digital payments ecosystem in terms of volume rose from 34% in 2019 to 83% in 2024

Chart 1: Comparison of UPI and other payment systems in digital transaction volume over the years (in crore)

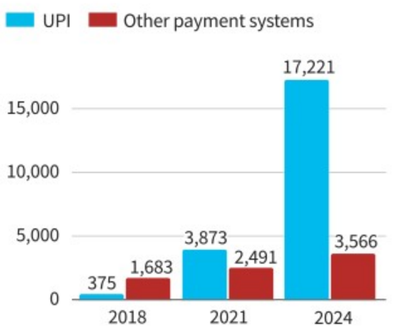
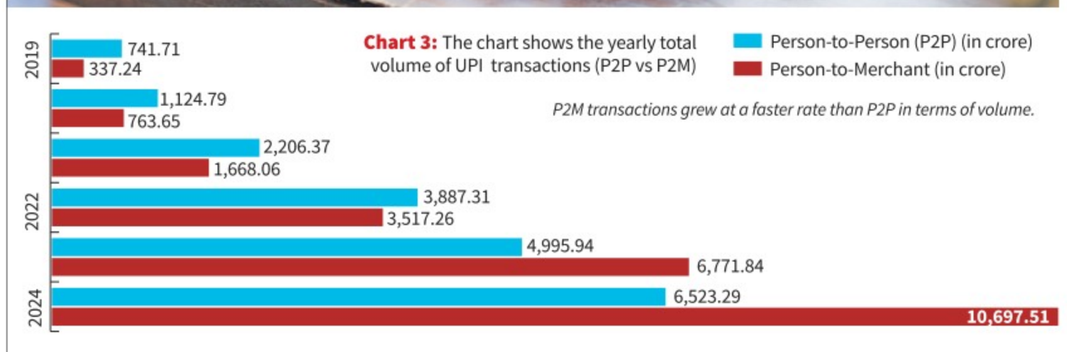


Chart 3: The chart shows the yearly total volume of UPI transactions (P2P vs P2M)



P2M transactions grew at a faster rate than P2P in terms of volume.

Chart 2: UPI transaction volumes and values since 2019

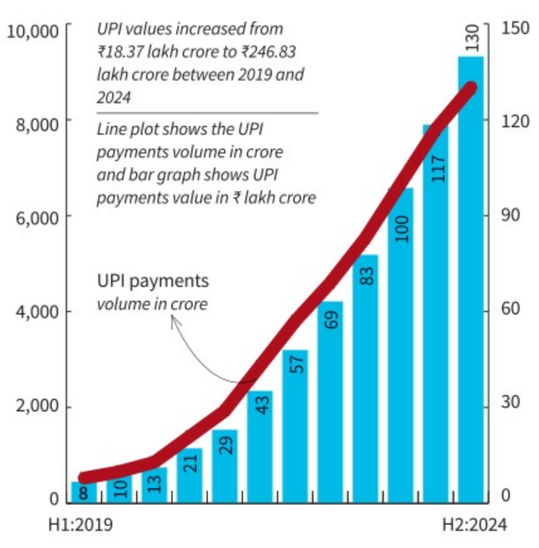


Chart 4: Yearly total value of transactions (P2P vs P2M)

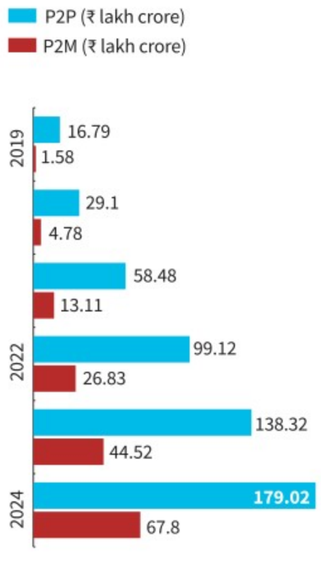


Chart 5: Share of transaction volume of various payment methods in total retail digital payments in 2024 (in %)

Payment method	Share
UPI	82.96
NEFT	4.47
Prepaid Payment Instruments	3.37
NACH	3.26
IMPS	2.86
Credit cards	2.15
Debit cards	0.84
NETC (linked to bank account)	0.08
BHIM Aadhaar Pay	0.01
AePS (Fund Transfers)	0.001

Chart 6: Share of the value of various payment methods in total retail digital payments in 2024 (in %)

Payment method	Share
NEFT	52.76
UPI	30.09
IMPS	8.62
NACH	5.14
Credit cards	2.48
Debit cards	0.63
Prepaid Payment Instruments	0.27
BHIM Aadhaar Pay	0.01
NETC (linked to bank account)	0.002
AePS (Fund Transfers)	0.0002

NACH: National Automated Clearing House, NEFT: National Electronic Fund Transfer, NETC: National Electronic Toll Collection, AePS: Aadhar enabled Payment System, IMPS: Immediate Payment Service, Prepaid Payment Instruments are issued in the form of smart cards, wallets, etc.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 6, 1975

India and U.S. decide to ban illicit trade in antiques

New Delhi, Feb. 5: India and the U.S. have reached an agreement to give a boost to mutual co-operation for a number of programmes in the fields of education and culture. They have also decided that the two governments would soon enact legislation to curb illicit trade in antiquities.

The decisions were taken to-day at the end of the three-day meeting of the Indo-U.S. Sub-Commission on Education and Culture.

A joint communique issued to-day said that the meeting of the Sub-Commission was in preparation for the meeting of the Indo-U.S. Joint Commission on economic, scientific, technical and cultural cooperation to be held in Washington on February 13 and 14. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Y.B. Chavan, and U.S. Secretary of State, Dr. Henry Kissinger, will lead their respective delegations.

The Sub-Commission is one of the three set up under the Indo-U.S. Joint Economic Commission during Dr. Kissinger's visit here last year.

Mr. G. Parthasarathy, former Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University, led the Indian delegation while Mr. Robert Goheen, Chairman of the Council of Foundations in New York, led his side.

The communique said the Sub Commission reviewed ways and means to exchange and strengthen co-operation in the educational and cultural fields. The discussions held in a "warm and cordial" atmosphere were marked by a "friendly and constructive spirit."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO FEBRUARY 6, 1925

Gold imports from America

London, Feb. 5: Some indication that the gold stream may be beginning to flow back from America to Europe and elsewhere is afforded by the weekly bullion letter of Messrs Samuel Montagu which shows that during the week the gold valued all in thousands of dollars at 50,314 has been announced as engaged for shipment from New York compared with 11,110 in the previous week. The former amount includes 17,989 for Australia, 17,775 for India, 5,000 for Berlin, 4,700 for Europe and Far East, 2,800 for Europe and 1,500 for Holland.

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SCAN TO LOCATE A DEALERSHIP NEAR YOU

From Page One

60% polling recorded in crucial election in Delhi

Polling began at 7 a.m. and officially ended at 6 p.m., with an electorate of more than 1.56 crore voters deciding the fate of 699 candidates across 70 constituencies. Voting was conducted in a single phase, with 13,766 polling stations including 733 auxiliary polling stations set up at 2,696 locations across the city. Over 30,000 Delhi police personnel were deployed on the ground, along with 200 paramilitary teams.

Among the constituencies, Mustafabad recorded the highest turnout at 69% by 11.50 p.m., while only 53.04% of voters exercised their franchise in Mehrauli. Delhi Cantonment, which has historically seen low voter participation, saw some improvement this year, registering a 59.30% turnout.

The AAP is fighting for a consecutive third term, while the BJP is looking to form the government in Delhi after 28 years. The Congress, which has won zero seats in the last decade, is hoping for a re-entry into the State Assembly. Leaders from all three parties claimed that their messages had resonated with voters and would assure them the victory.

High-profile contests

Other key constituencies are former Deputy CM Manish Sisodia's Jangpura seat, where the BJP has fielded Tarvinder Singh Marwah and the Congress nominee is Farhad Suri. Current Chief Minister Atishi is also in the fray from Kalkaji, defending it from former BJP MP Ramesh Bidhuri and the Congress's Alka Lamba.

Several candidates started their day before the polls opened, paying their respects at religious places.

Festival of democracy

Ahead of the election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi also encouraged voters to exercise their franchise, in a post on X. "I urge the voters here to participate in this festival of democracy with full enthusiasm and cast their valuable vote. On this occasion, my special wishes to all the young friends who are going to vote for the first time. Remember - first vote, then refreshment!" he said.

The Delhi CEO had made extensive arrangements for voters, including the provision of refreshments within polling stations. As voters trickled into booths, party workers and resident welfare associations encouraged people to participate by going door-to-door and sending messages on WhatsApp groups.

Narcotics network backing infiltrators in J&K, says Shah

Union Home Minister directs all security agencies to step up fight against terrorism by aiming for the 'zero infiltration' goal; he adds that it should be a goal to uproot the existence of terrorists

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday said that the narcotics network was providing support to infiltrators and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. He said that there was a need to initiate prompt action with alacrity and rigour against terror funding from the proceeds of narcotics trade.

Mr. Shah, who reviewed the security situation in the Union Territory on Wednesday, directed all security agencies to step up the fight against terrorism by aiming for the "zero infiltration" goal. He asked all security agencies to take more stringent action on infiltration and acts of terror with a ruthless approach. He said that it should be a goal to uproot the existence of terrorists.

Routine scrutiny: Amit Shah chairs a high-level review meeting in New Delhi on Wednesday on the security situation in J&K. PTI

The meeting was attended by the Lieutenant-Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha; Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan; Intelligence Bureau Director Tapan Kumar Deka; Director-General of Police J&K Nalin Prabhat; and other senior officials. A day ago, Mr. Shah held a review meeting with the Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi.

Mr. Shah directed the agencies to make fresh appointments to the posts at the Forensic Science Laboratory in view of the timely implementation of the new criminal laws.

Emphasising the government's "policy of zero tolerance" against terrorism, the Minister directed all security agencies to remain vigilant and continue to work in synergy to eliminate terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Govt. warns officials against using AI tools due to security risks

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Finance has advised government officials to "strictly avoid" artificial intelligence (AI) tools, including ChatGPT and DeepSeek, on official devices as they "pose risks to the confidentiality of government data and documents".

Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, which operates ChatGPT, is currently in India to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

DeepSeek, developed by China, was launched in January.

The circular, accessed by *The Hindu,* was issued by the Department of Expenditure (DoE) on January 29.

The DoE issued a circular on January 29, outlining the risks associated with AI tools. AFP

Risks to confidentiality

"It has been determined that AI tools and AI Apps (such as ChatGPT, DeepSeek etc.) on office computers and devices pose risks to the confidentiality of government data and documents. It is, therefore, advised that the use of AI tools/AI applications on office devices be strictly avoided. This may be brought to the notice of all employees. This issue has been approved by the Finance Secretary," said an order by Pradeep Kumar Singh, Joint Secretary, DoE.

On January 30, Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister for Information Technology, told *The Hindu* in an interview that DeepSeek would soon be hosted on Indian servers.

"DeepSeek is an open source model and we are very soon going to host DeepSeek on Indian servers, the way we have hosted Llama, so that the data privacy parameters can be addressed. That we will do soon. Already team has done that work. And we will soon be hosting open source models on Indian servers. That will address the concerns regarding privacy," Mr. Vaishnaw had said.

The DoE's circular comes months after another Central government office, the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), organised a training session for officials in the rank of Joint Secretary and below, including Directors and Deputy Secretaries, on the use of 'ChatGPT-4 Plus'.

The circular to DoPT officials was sent on October 10, 2024, and the training was held from October 14 to 16 of the same year in seven batches. It remains unclear whether other Ministries or Central government departments received similar orders restricting the use of AI tools.

Row over actor Rahul Solapurkar's remarks on Shivaji's escape from Agra

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

A recent claim by actor Rahul Solapurkar regarding the historic escape of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj from Agra has ignited widespread debate.

Mr. Solapurkar, a trustee of the Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute in Pune, suggested that Shivaji Maharaj's famed escape was not achieved using sweet containers, as is popularly believed, but rather by bribing several of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb's commanders. This assertion has sparked outrage among historians, activists, and admirers of the Maratha king.

Rahul Solapurkar

The controversy escalated when members of the Akhand Maratha Samaj staged a protest, demanding Mr. Solapurkar's removal from the trustee post.

In response to the backlash, the actor issued a video apology, expressing regret if his remarks had hurt the sentiments of Shivaji Maharaj's admirers.

Following the protest, the Pune police have heightened security measures outside his residence. Reacting to the actor's remarks, BJP MP Udayanraje Bhosale, the 13th descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji, said, "How can anyone dare to insult the legacy of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj?"

U.S. aircraft lands in Amritsar with Indians

A U.S. military plane deporting Indian immigrants lands in Amritsar on Wednesday. REUTERS

The deportation through a military aircraft drew attention as this was the first time the U.S. had carried out such a deportation with one of its biggest cargo aircraft.

The *BBC* had reported that the authorities in Amritsar moved fast and started sending them back to their home towns in States such as Gujarat, Haryana and Punjab. Commercial taxis and airlines were being used to send them back to their home towns, sources have said.

The Punjab Police took charge of the passengers soon after they landed in Amritsar. The passengers were being sent home by special aircraft to the National Capital Region as well as Gujarat as several citizens from the group hailed from Haryana, Gujarat and Punjab.

As per a list shared by sources with *The Hindu*, bulk of the passengers who hailed from Punjab were from Hoshiarpur, Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Jalandhar, Kapurthala, Patiala, Sangrur, Fatehgarh Sahib, and Tarn Taran. The U.S. authorities had previously deported Indians by civilian aircraft but this was the first time that a rare wide-bodied aircraft was used for the same task.

Declined to comment

The Indian officials, however, declined to comment on how the allegedly illegal Indian immigrants were sent back before Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled to the U.S. on February 12. Mr. Modi held a telephone conversation with Mr. Trump last week when he urged Mr. Trump to discuss the welfare of both sides.

President Trump has been tough on illegal immigration since taking charge on January 20 as he had promised to implement the poll-time vow on crackdown on illegal immigration from all over the world. U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had followed up on the poll promise by his January 26 declaration that every country must take back its nationals as the U.S. had made its intent clear earlier. Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had travelled to the U.S. during the swearing-in ceremony on January 20 when the newly elected Trump administration had shared its concerns about immigration and the pressure on livelihood with the Indian officials.

Stryker infantry vehicle deal with the U.S. progresses; Javelin to be re-demonstrated

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Against the backdrop of U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi that India should buy more military equipment from them and amid the upcoming visit of Mr. Modi to Washington DC next week, several defence deals in the pipeline are in focus, among them the deal for co-production of Stryker infantry combat vehicles.

The performance of Stryker in high-altitude conditions was demonstrated for the Indian Army and negotiations are making progress, according to sources in the know.

The Stryker, manufactured by General Dynamics, has been evaluated in high-altitude conditions of Ladakh last September-October and the report has subsequently been shared with the Army Headquarters for further action, according to the sources.

The performance of the vehicles was demonstrated in high-altitude conditions between 13,000 and 18,000 feet which also saw the testing of the Javelin Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), two sources said. And given some shortcomings, last month a communication was sent and re-trials are now awaited anytime, the sources stated.

The Stryker with its double-V hull performed optimally, one of the sources said, adding that the Javelin's performance was not at the optimum level, which was due to the age of the system that being used and repeat trials are expected to validate that. India has already sent a communication to the U.S. side asking for repeat demonstration of the Javelin, another source said, and the schedule is being worked out.

Infantry carrier: A Stryker armoured vehicle used by the U.S. Army during their final days in Iraq. FILE PHOTO

The Army has identified a key requirement for ATGMs mounted on infantry combat vehicles, several defence officials stated. However, the Stryker variant with the Javelin ATGM is under development and is expected to be demonstrated to India in the near future, it has been learnt.

Assembling in India

The envisaged plan, according to sources, is the procurement of few hundred vehicles in two stages. Direct import of small number of Strykers in the first stage and license manufacture of a bulk of them, with some customisations, in India likely by defence public sector undertaking Bharat Earth Movers Limited.

The Stryker deal is expected to figure in the conversations during Mr. Modi's U.S. visit along with the deal for license manufacture of General Electric F-414 jet engines in India and the long delays in deliveries of the F-404 engines for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Mk1A which has delayed the delivery and induction schedule.

The U.S. has in the past demonstrated both the Stryker as well as Javelin ATGM to the Indian Army during bilateral exercises.

Pak. wants to resolve all issues with India: Sharif

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif on Wednesday said the country wants to resolve all issues, including Kashmir, with India through talks as he reiterated his "unwavering" support for the Kashmiri people.

Mr. Sharif made the remarks while addressing a special session of the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) Legislative Assembly in Muzaffarabad on the occasion of "Kashmir Solidarity Day", an annual Pakistani event to show support for the Kashmiris.

"India should come out of the thinking of August 5, 2019, and fulfil promises made to the UN and launch a dialogue," he added.

'West Asia crisis must not be allowed to undermine IMEC'

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Greece fully supports the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) as a "project for peace", Minister of Foreign Affairs George Gerapetritis has said, admitting that the project's planning has been delayed since its launch in September 2023 due to the conflict in West Asia, and the Israel-Gaza war in particular.

In an exclusive interview to *The Hindu*, Mr. Gerapetritis, who has arrived in Delhi for Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on Thursday, said his visit to India follows a series of meetings in Qatar, Israel, Ramallah, and Jordan, which will be discussed during the talks.

He said Greece is working towards doubling trade and investment initiatives with India and plans to open two new consulates in Mumbai and Bengaluru. It also wants direct flights to begin and more visas to be issued.

"The ongoing crisis in the Middle East has delayed the project's planning, but it must not be allowed to undermine the powerful rationale behind IMEC. It is our resolve – that of India, Greece, and our partners in between – that we will bring this project of peace and prosperity to pass," Mr. Gerapetritis said in written responses to questions from *The Hindu* about the viability of the IMEC that was launched on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Delhi.

George Gerapetritis

No meeting yet

Despite the memorandum of understanding stipulating that the stakeholders would meet "within 60 days", they have been unable to meet even once more than 16 months later due to the West Asia conflict.

"The ceasefires in Gaza and Lebanon and the opening of the crossing in Rafah, combined with the new conditions in Syria, represent a significant turning point and leave room for hope that the conflicts will subside," Mr. Gerapetritis said, adding that Greece would pursue "peaceful settlement of disputes" during its current two-year elected term as a member of the United Nations Security Council.

During a visit to India in February 2024, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis had pitched Greece as the "gateway to Europe" for Indian trade over the IMEC. Initial IMEC project proposals had mentioned Greek's Piraeus port, along with Italy's Messina and France's Marseille, as possible ports on the IMEC route.

More recent reports have also suggested that the Adani Group, which runs other ports on the proposed IMEC route, including Mundra port in Gujarat and the Haifa port in Israel, was seeking terminals in Greek ports like Kavala and Volos.

Trade between India and Greece stood at $1.9 billion in 2022-23. Both countries have committed to "doubling it by 2030". Greece is particularly interested in Indian commerce in the areas of "construction materials, food & beverages, renewable energy", Mr. Gerapetritis said, indicating that trade would pick up at a faster pace if the long-pending India-European Union Free Trade Agreement talks are concluded.

Asked about the issue of illegal immigration, with thousands of undocumented Indian migrants using the sea route to reach Greece each year, he said that Greece and India are negotiating a memorandum of understanding on migration and mobility.

"Overall, we apply a strict but fair migration policy. What we are trying to do is to turn irregular migration into legal and orderly pathways of human mobility," Mr. Gerapetritis said.

(Interview is available at newsth.live/greekminister)

Majority of exit polls predict BJP's return to power in Delhi

AAP projected to finish second and Congress a distant third; incumbent rejects results, says it will form the next government with a huge majority

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Most of the exit polls on Wednesday predicted the return of the Bharatiya Janata Party and its allies to power in Delhi after 27 years, while the Aam Aadmi Party was projected to finish second and the Congress a distant third.

According to Chanakya Strategies, the BJP and its allies are likely to get 39 to 44 seats, the AAP 25 to 28, and the Congress two to three. The JVC gave 39 to 45 seats to the BJP alliance, 22 to 31 to the AAP, and nil to two seats to Congress.

Pollster DV Research predicted that the BJP-led coalition would win 36 to 44 seats and the AAP 26 to 34, while the Congress will not open account.

Matrize showed a close contest between the AAP and the BJP, with the former getting 32 to 37 seats and the latter 35 to 40, and the Congress zero to one. It indicated a 46% vote share for the BJP and 44% for the AAP, and 8% for the Congress.

P-Marq projected a clear majority for the BJP front with 39-49 seats and a 45% vote share, followed by 21 to 31 for the AAP with 42% vote share and nil to one seat for the Congress with 9% vote share. People's Insight gave 40 to 44 seats to the BJP alliance, 25 to 29 to the AAP, and zero to two to the Congress. According to Peoples Pulse, the figure would stand at 51 to 60 for the BJP coalition, 10 to 19 for the AAP and nil for the Congress, while Poll Diary gave 42 to 50 to the saffron party's alliance, 18 to 25 to the AAP, and nil to two seats to the Congress.

However, figures released by Mind Brink showed the AAP getting a fourth term with 44 to 49 seats, followed by the BJP with 21 to 25 seats and the Congress with zero to one.

WeePreside projected an AAP sweep with 46 to 52 seats, with the BJP bagging 18 to 23 and the Congress zero to one.

Rejecting the exit poll results, the AAP's Saurabh Bharadwaj said, "We have contested this fourth election in Delhi. The exit polls of 2013 and 2015 had defeated us. In 2020 too, our seats were shown to be less and in the exit polls of 2025 too, our seats are being shown to be less. The AAP is going to form the government with a huge majority and all these exit polls will be proven wrong."

What exit polls say

Most of them predict a comfortable win for the BJP in the Delhi Assembly election

On the D-day: A polling official putting a mark with indelible ink on the finger of a voter during the Delhi Assembly election on Wednesday. ANI

Total number of seats: 70

Pollsters	BJP	AAP	Congress
People's Pulse	51-60	10-19	0-0
P-Marq	39-49	21-31	0-1
Matrize	35-40	32-37	0-1
JVC	39-45	22-31	0-2
Chanakya Strategies	39-44	25-28	2-3

No major complaints of names deleted from voter list in New Delhi Assembly constituency

Nikhil M. Babu
Satvika Mahajan
NEW DELHI

There were no major complaints of names deleted from the voter list during polling in the New Delhi Assembly constituency on Wednesday, despite the Aam Aadmi Party's repeated allegations in the run-up to the Delhi Assembly election that the BJP was attempting large-scale manipulation of the electoral rolls. Election Commission officials had dismissed the allegations as baseless.

The Hindu criss-crossed the New Delhi constituency, but did not find anyone whose name was not on the voter list when they arrived at the polling booths on Wednesday, except for a group of people who had previously lived in a slum near Kali Bari which was demolished in October 2024, after which they had moved from the area. Prema Devi, 60, who lives in a slum cluster near Lodhi Road, said that she did not face any issues while voting.

"I voted earlier in the day and did not face any issue. None of the people who live in my slum that I know had any problems. But we go and vote every election in the fear that otherwise, our names will be deleted from the voter list," Ms. Devi said.

At her polling booth, a school on Lodhi Road, volunteers said that they had not received any complaints of names being deleted from the electoral rolls on Wednesday morning. Outside another polling booth near Pilanji village, Muni Devi, 55, said that she had voted without any difficulty. At Pilanji village, Bima Devi, 43, said that she also did not face any difficulty and she has not heard anyone raising any complaint. "My husband's name was not there, but it was not there for the Lok Sabha election also, but we did not go to get it added. We should have done it," she added.

Queuing up: People waiting to cast their vote in New Delhi on Wednesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Unfounded fears

At an election booth in B.K. Dutt Colony, volunteers and officials said that there had not been any issues in terms of names being deleted.

Voters near the Valmiki Basti did not experience any name deletions. Similarly, in a booth in Kidwai Nagar, several voters were worried about their names being deleted but discovered that their fears were unfounded,

In the New Delhi constituency, AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal is pitted against Parvesh Sahib Singh and Sandeep Dikshit. Mr. Singh and Mr. Dikshit are sons of two former Chief Ministers, Sahib Singh Verma and Sheila Dikshit respectively.

Over 65% voting recorded in Milkipur bypoll

Press Trust of India
AYODHYA

More than 65% of the total 3.7 lakh voters exercised their franchise in the bye-election in the Milkipur Assembly constituency on Wednesday, surpassing the turnout recorded in the 2022 Assembly election.

Voting began at 7 a.m. and continued till 5 p.m., officials said.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav alleged "fake voting" and rigging by officials, but senior police officers rejected the charge by saying that voting went on peacefully at all polling stations.

According to the Election Commission (EC), 65.35% votes were cast till the completion of voting. The final poll percentage may go up when data from all 414 polling stations are compiled.

The turnout was more than the 60.23% recorded in the previous Assembly election.

The bypoll has turned into a prestige battle between the Samajwadi Party and the BJP as the seat is part of the politically significant Ayodhya district.

Alleging that presiding officers are "fulfilling the target of fake voting" in the constituency, Mr. Yadav urged the EC and the Supreme Court to take cognisance of the "enemies of democracy".

Mr. Yadav posted on social media platform X an audio clip from a purported sting and said: "This is a sting operation of the truth of presiding officers who are fulfilling the target of fake voting for the ruling party." In another post, he said: "The EC should immediately take cognisance of pictures related to the news that Ayodhya Police is checking the ID cards of voters in Milkipur."

However, Ayodhya Senior Superintendent of Police Raj Karan Nayyar denied the accusations. He said the photo depicted police personnel verifying the credentials of a polling agent, and emphasised that law enforcement officers are not conducting any verification of voters' identification documents.

Amid a delay in holding Census, vital reports on births and deaths pending since 2020

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

With the decadal Census exercise pending since 2021 and unlikely to be conducted this year, at least two other key reports on births and deaths had not been released by the Union Home Ministry for the past five years.

The "Vital Statistics of India Based on the Civil Registration System" and "The Report on Medical Certification of Cause of Death" were last released for the year 2020. The annual "Crime in India" report by the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) for the year 2023 is also yet to be released.

According to the 2020 Civil Registration System report, Vital Statistics is a compilation of the "occurrence and characteristics of vital events such as births, deaths and still-births" recorded across the country, and is "invaluable for planning, monitoring and evaluating various programmes related to primary healthcare, family planning, maternal and child health, and education", and others. The States send data to the Registrar-General of India.

In 2023, the Centre enacted the Registration of Births and Deaths (Amendment) Act, 2023, which mandated that all births and deaths in the country occurring from October 1, 2023 were to be digitally registered through the Central portal crsorgi.gov.in. The Centre hence has access to real-time data.

According to publicly available information, the States and Union Territories such as Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Chandigarh, Mizoram, Goa, and Arunachal Pradesh have published reports till the year 2022. The last published Vital Statistics report for Kerala was for 2021 and Mizoram was the only State to have the report for 2023.

The Census, which was to be conducted in 2020-21, was initially delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic but persistent demands from Opposition parties for caste enumeration appears to have held up the exercise now.

According to a senior government official, while deliberations on ways and measures to count caste numbers were held for the past few months, the BJP-led NDA government was not in a hurry to roll out the Census. Other than that of the Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST), caste-wise population had not been enumerated in Independent India.

In 2011, the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance (UPA) conducted the first caste count under the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), separate from the Census exercise, but the findings were never made public.

According to an affidavit submitted by the Union government in 2021, the SECC data, fraught with "mistakes and inaccuracies", had thrown up more than 46 lakh caste names, while the 1931 Census recorded only 4,147 such names.

"For the Census to happen this year, the government should have issued the notification by November 2024. The 10-month period for conducting Census in two phases usually starts from April 1 and since it will be the first digital Census, more than 30 lakh enumerators would require fresh training, which takes three or four months," said a former Census official.

No separate allocation for conducting the Census was made in the Union Budget.

Another official said though a final decision was awaited, nearly 24 lakh enumeration blocks were already finalised and training would not require much time as enumerators were trained in 2019 before the first phase of the Census that was to begin from April 1, 2020.

Stalled count: A Census operation in Bangalore on March 1, 2011. India has not conducted the next decadal count. K. MURALI KUMAR

Modi did not mention 'Make in India' in speech, he should admit it is a failure, says Rahul

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi did not mention 'Make in India' in his speech in Parliament and the only way India can compete with China is to have its own production system, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi said on Wednesday.

Mr. Gandhi's post on the social media platform X came a day after the Prime Minister had lashed out at the Opposition leader during his reply to the Lok Sabha debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President for her address in Parliament.

Without naming Mr. Gandhi, the Prime Minister had said that those speaking of fighting the Indian state could not appreciate the Constitution and national unity.

"Prime Minister, in your speech, you didn't even mention 'Make in India'! The Prime Minister should acknowledge that 'Make in India', although a good initiative, is a failure. Manufacturing has fallen from 15.3 per cent of GDP in 2014 to 12.6 per cent – the lowest in the last 60 years," Mr. Gandhi said.

Rahul Gandhi

On providing jobs

The Congress leader said no government in recent times – the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) or the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) – had been able to meet at scale the national challenge of providing jobs.

"India's youth desperately need jobs," Mr. Gandhi said. "We need a vision to address what's holding our manufacturing sector back, and prepare it to be competitive in the global economy of the future. This vision for production in India must also have a specific focus on emergent technologies such as electric motors, batteries, optics, and artificial intelligence. This is the only way to revive our manufacturing sector, develop cutting-edge manufacturing ability, and create the jobs we need," he added.

He added that China was 10 years ahead of India and had a stronger industrial system. "...this is what gives them the confidence to challenge us. The only way to compete effectively with them is to build our production systems and for that we need vision and strategy," Mr. Gandhi said.

Will resign if Opposition proves that I did not follow norms: Waqf panel chief

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Jagdambika Pal, Chairman of Parliament's Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024, has denied any "procedural lapses" in the conduct of the panel.

The Bharatiya Janata Party MP challenged the Opposition members that he would resign from the Lok Sabha if they could prove that established parliamentary practices were not followed by the panel.

All the 11 dissent notes filed by the Opposition members accused the Chairman of flouting procedures to hurry through the deliberations. Mr. Pal, however, denied the allegation.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Pal said, "All the members were kept in loop, every step of the way."

In the final report, portions of the dissent notes of the Opposition members were redacted. The members have written to Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla urging him to overrule Mr. Pal and retain uncensored dissent notes in the report. As the Chair, Mr. Pal said he was well within his rights to remove portions from the dissent note. "Their objections to the provisions of the Bill continue to be part of the report. But in the name of dissent, they cannot abuse," he said.

'For transparency'

Mr. Pal said the government had a majority in both Houses of Parliament and could have easily pushed the Bill through. "The only reason Minority Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju moved a motion to send the Bill to the parliamentary panel is because the government believes in transparency. We had exhaustive deliberations on each aspect of the Bill," Mr. Pal said. He said the panel met 15 State governments. Representatives were called from those States which the panel was unable to tour. It spent 111 hours in deliberations, meeting all stakeholders, he added.

Mr. Pal accused the Opposition of setting a wrong narrative. "From Day One, they have been projecting that the amendments to the Waqf Bill will endanger all historic structures. This Bill aims to bring in transparency. To ensure that the property is used for the very purpose that the Waqf had intended. How many widows and orphans are benefiting from Waqf properties? So far, only the caretakers are enjoying the dividends," he said.

One on one: BJP MP Jagdambika Pal (left) with Congress MP Imran Masood in Parliament. ANI

On poll accusation

The Opposition members had accused Mr. Pal of hurrying through the report in view of the Delhi Assembly election. The members were given only 48 hours to submit their amendments. "In our country, there is an election almost every other month. Can the work stop keeping in mind the election schedule? And their claim is not logical. If that was the case, the government would have passed the Waqf Bill before the Lok Sabha polls," he said.

The report was listed on Monday's agenda for tabling in Parliament. But it was not tabled on Monday or Tuesday.

Asked about the delay, Mr. Pal said, "The report is now the property of the House. And it can be tabled whenever the Speaker deems it fit."

INBRIEF

Modi takes a dip, says feeling blessed to be at Maha Kumbh

Prime Minister Narendra Modi took a dip at the Sangam on Wednesday, and said he felt "blessed to be at the Maha Kumbh" where he was "filled with a spirit of devotion." "Blessed to be at the Maha Kumbh in Prayagraj. The *snan* at the Sangam is a moment of divine connection, and like the crores of others who have taken part in it, I was also filled with a spirit of devotion," Mr. Modi posted on X. "May Maa Ganga bless all with peace, wisdom, good health, and harmony," he added. His trip lasted around 90 minutes. The PM travelled from the Prayagraj airport to Sangam by helicopter and later used a motorboat to and from the Arail Ghat. He was accompanied by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

M.P. CM releases five more cheetahs into the wild in Kuno

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Mohan Yadav on Wednesday released five cheetahs, including the female Veera who gave birth to two cubs on Tuesday, into the wild from their enclosures at the Kuno National Park in Sheopur district. The other cheetahs set free include Asha and her three cubs. Two cheetahs – Agni and Vayu – already roam freely in the forest since they were released on December 4, on the occasion of International Cheetah Day. Mr. Yadav shared pictures from the national park on X. He said it was a matter of great pleasure to see the cheetahs are gaining speed again and increasing their population in Madhya Pradesh.

Congress, Sikkim BJP oppose plan to rebuild Teesta dam

Threat of disaster persists at the dam site, says Jairam Ramesh; approval granted despite concerns related to environmental safety, structural integrity, and public consultation, says Sikkim BJP chief

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Wednesday said it disapproved of a recent decision by an expert committee of the Environment Ministry to allow the reconstruction of the Teesta-3 hydropower project in Sikkim that was destroyed in October 2023.

"The Indian National Congress also opposes this thoughtless clearance. The threat of disaster persists at the dam site. There are also cascading and multiplying effects on habitations downstream," Rajya Sabha member Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X on Wednesday. He appended a letter from August 2024, in which the Congress had criticised the government for not allocating enough money for irrigation and flood control in the July 2024 Budget.

Earlier this week, D.R. Thapa, the president of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Sikkim unit, had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav demanding withdrawal of the clearance given to the project.

BJP chief D.R. Thapa in his letter to the Centre said that the Teesta river is the lifeline of Sikkim. RITU RAJ KONWAR

"This approval was granted on January 10, 2025, despite unresolved concerns related to environmental safety, structural integrity and public consultation," the letter read.

The BJP leader demanded that the clearance accorded by the Environment Appraisal Committee (EAC) be put on hold until all pending scientific studies and a revised Probable Maximum Flood (PMF) assessment were completed and independently verified. He also demanded a fresh environmental impact assessment incorporating updated climate data, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) risks, and evolving hydrological conditions in the region. He also called for a fresh public hearing on the issue.

Lifeline of Sikkim

"The Sikkim BJP believed that while development and infrastructure are essential, they must be pursued with scientific integrity, environmental responsibility, and public participation. The Teesta river is the lifeline of Sikkim, and any decision regarding its future must prioritise the safety, sustainability, and ecological well-being of the region," the letter read.

"We urge the Government of India to act immediately to prevent any further environmental and human disasters in the state," the letter underlined. The devastating glacier lake outburst flood in Sikkim washed away the Chungthang dam, which powered the Teesta 3, the State's biggest hydropower project, and killed at least 100 people in the process.

In its report approving the rebuilding, the EAC said that the new dam would be entirely concrete – reportedly to increase its strength – and its spillway will be capable of managing a peak flow of 19,946 cubic metres a second (cumecs), thrice the capacity of the former dam, which was 7,000 cumecs. The older dam had a part rock and part concrete structure.

As part of their appraisal to relook the projects, the EAC assessed studies by the government where the risk from 119 glacial lakes were identified in the catchment. Out of these, 50 glacial lakes were shortlisted with area of 10 ha or more for further evaluation.

Army's Fort William in Kolkata set to be known as Vijay Durg

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

In the latest step toward eliminating colonial practices and mindsets within the armed forces, Fort William in Kolkata, the headquarters of the Eastern Army Command, has been renamed Vijay Durg. Additionally, Kitchener House inside Fort William has been renamed Manekshaw House, and South Gate, formerly known as St. George's Gate, is now Shivaji Gate.

Wing Commander Himanshu Tiwari, the Defence Public Relations Officer in Kolkata, has said the decision was made in mid-December and all internal communications have since ceased using "Fort William", adopting the new name instead. However, the official announcement is still pending.

Fort William, named after King William III of England, was constructed by the British in 1781.

The new name, Vijay Durg, is derived from the oldest fort along the Sindhudurg coast in Maharashtra. It served as a naval base for the Marathas under Chhatrapati Shivaji.

In recent years, there have been a series of measures aimed at removing

Army officers gather at Fort Williams in Kolkata during the Army Day celebrations. AP

"vestiges of the colonial era" and "Indianising" military traditions and customs – an initiative Prime Minister Narendra Modi has described as freedom from the mentality of slavery.

In March 2022, while addressing the top military leadership at Kevadia in Gujarat, Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasised the importance of enhancing indigenisation in national defence – not just in terms of sourcing of equipment and weapons but also in the doctrines, procedures and customs practised by the armed forces.

He urged the three services to "rid themselves of legacy systems and practices that have outlived utility and relevance".

House panel seeks SOPs for timely completion of spiritual tourism projects

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Expressing disappointment over the slow progress of important projects in the spiritual tourism circuits and under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme, a parliamentary committee has asked the government to develop a "clear-cut Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)" and obtain prior clearances and approvals from relevant authorities for timely completion of projects.

The PRASHAD scheme focuses on developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture noted that of the 23 spiritual circuits, five are yet to be completed out of which two circuits in Kerala – Sabarimala-Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam circuit and Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram circuit – are yet to be completed.

Long trek: Pilgrims trekking through the Sathram-Sabarimala traditional forest path. LEJU KAMAL

In a report tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday, the committee, headed by Janata Dal(U) MP Sanjay Jha, said that at the time of the Demands for Grants, 2023-24, it had been informed that the reason for delays in these two Kerala circuits was lack of clearance from the temple authorities.

The panel also observed that under the PRASHAD scheme, only 21 of 45 projects have been completed.

Webinar on heavy menstrual bleeding to be held on Feb. 9

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, in collaboration with *The Hindu*, is hosting a webinar on "Management of heavy menstrual bleeding" from 11.30 a.m. on February 9.

This is the fourth webinar in the 15-part series organised as part of the "Healthy India, Happy India" initiative aimed to "Prevent illness, promote wellness".

Various topics

During the webinar, eminent speakers from Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, will speak on various topics.

While Abraham Peedicayil, senior consultant, gynae-oncology, will speak on "Introduction to menstrual disorders and postmenopausal bleeding",

naruvi
HEALTHIER CHOICES, HAPPIER LIVES.
HEALTHY INDIA HAPPY INDIA
JOIN US FOR A WEBINAR ON
MANAGEMENT OF HEAVY MENSTRUAL BLEEDING

P.B. Akilasree, senior consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology, will discuss "Pubertal menstrual disorders", and Jeyasheela Kamaraj, consultant, obstetrics and gynaecology, will speak on "Heavy bleeding in the reproductive age".

The session will be moderated by Hiba Mariam.

To register, visit *https://newsth.live/HIHIUIE* or scan the QR code.

AIIMS across India facing faculty shortage; 34% posts vacant in New Delhi facility

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

J.P. Nadda says creation of posts and recruitment is a continuous process

The All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) across India are facing a shortage of faculty members.

As much as 34% of the posts are vacant in the institute in New Delhi, 24% in Bhopal, 25% in Bhubaneswar, 28% in Jodhpur, 38% in Raipur, 27% in Patna, and 39% in Rishikesh.

The Union Health Ministry revealed this earlier this week in the Rajya Sabha, while replying to a question by Sanjeev Arora, MP, on the shortage of faculty and healthcare services in the AIIMS.

Union Health Minister J.P. Nadda, in his statement, said there was faculty shortage in 12 partially operational institutes, including 41% in Mangalagiri, 23% in Nagpur, and 39% in Kalyani.

The Minister said the Centre had approved the setting up of 22 new AIIMS under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana.

"Creation of posts and recruitment is a continuous process. In order to expeditiously fill vacant sanctioned positions in various AIIMS, steps have been taken by the government," his statement noted.

The Minister said that the centralised Nursing Officer Recruitment Common Eligibility Test is conducted by the AIIMS, Delhi for the recruitment of nursing officers in these institutes, while the Common Recruitment Examination is conducted by it for appointments to Group B and C non-faculty vacancies.

The Institute of National Importance Combined Entrance Test and the Institute of National Importance Super-Specialty examination is conducted by it to select junior residents (academic) and senior residents (academic) for these institutions.

"The government does not want to recruit persons for the sake of filling the posts," the Minister said at a press conference recently.

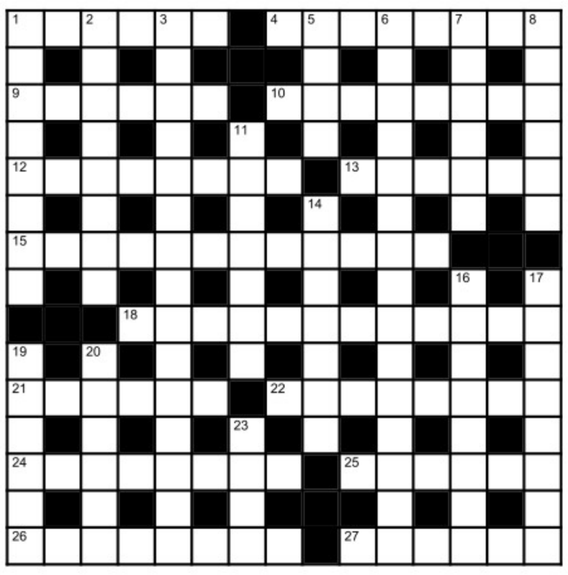
"The quality of people taken in matters, and we will not compromise on that," the Minister said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14401

(set by Arden)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Partly it is a new concoction (6)
4 Cocktail waiters get inadequate tip, so to speak (2,2,4)
9 Finally found it in USA - random checks? (6)
10 Money stolen might bring down a game (8)
12 Empty threat - I look around and do nothing (3,5)
13 Abandoned childcare, had to go round (6)
15 A song in celebration of marriage composed by Tom and Phil Aaron (12)
18 Evidences show place is in terrible state (12)
21 Keen to protect girl in a corner (6)
22 A rare medical condition - relapses partially because of sugar (8)
24 Media director imbibing alcohol - outsiders make a song (8)
25 Pretentious in greeting (6)
26 A theatre person takes time to get a fish (8)
27 Enemy desperate to get hold of an unknown protein (6)

Down

1 Patterns running across the nave, say (8)
2 Second book on insurrection... (8)
3 ...even so, not accompanied by status (15)
5 Stagger in as guest, uninvited (4)
6 Last challenge, act on it - think he somehow can accept defeat stoically? (4,2,2,3,4)
7 Deplorable hesitancy without any moral principles (6)
8 The final encounters go up in value (6)
11 Tea cups besides a football team (7)
14 Fallen in love with small babies' wear (7)
16 Upset harmony over Catholic kingdom (8)
17 At home in a country (8)
19 Rascals quietly involved in swindles (6)
20 Third of silver and gold in the carriage (6)
23 Palm tree tops - some are grown outside (4)

SUDOKU

9							3	
				7	8		4	
6	4	2				5		
				1				5
5	3	1				2	6	4
7				4				
		9				6	1	3
	7		2	3				
	5							9

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

I	C	F			D	D	H	L
G	L	O	B	A	L	H	E	R
N	U	I	P	B	S	R	S	
I	M	P	O	R	T	A	N	T
T	L			N		R	B	E
I	N	E	L	A	S	T	I	C
N		P	H	A	U	L		
G	L	I	M	P	S	E	R	E
	N	A	O	D	H			H
T	E	N	O	R	N	I	G	H
O	O	E		A		T	T	
P	E	C	A	N	A	R	M	A
I	E	T	R	E	O	A	R	
C	O	N	F	L	I	C	T	B
S	T	Y	S		M	T	C	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

9	2	4	8	6	1	3	7	5
6	3	7	4	9	5	1	2	8
8	1	5	2	7	3	4	9	6
1	4	8	3	5	7	9	6	2
5	7	9	6	4	2	8	1	3
2	6	3	1	8	9	7	5	4
4	5	2	9	1	8	6	3	7
3	8	1	7	2	6	5	4	9
7	9	6	5	3	4	2	8	1

FAITH

Importance of rituals

Like a parent raising a child with an eye on a prosperous future, God too has an abiding interest in the spiritual well being of a person, right from birth. Leading a virtuous life, it is possible to reach Him: all one has to do is to surrender to him entirely to attain moksha. To that end, God has been guiding man from time immemorial in many ways: by manifestations, by way of scriptural texts and also as resident deity in temples. Additionally, he has sent acharyas, preceptors and gurus, to guide humans, said Karunakaran Swami in a discourse.

One may ask where does God dwell? He is present in Vaikuntam, but none of us can claim to have been there or recall such a darshan. God is within oneself, but we are so overwhelmed by *vasanas* (sensory gratifications) that we fail to engage with Him.

Various gurus have shown how to connect with God in a structured, doable manner. They have advocated embracing daily rituals such as chanting His name, offering simple things such as flowers and fruits to Him every day, with total faith.

Sastras say it is imperative that one does three things. '*Jeevato vakya karana*' it says, meaning one should keep one's parents /elders happy till their last breath. It also mandates '*Gayanam pinda dhanam*' (visit Gaya at least once and offer pinda at least once to one's dear departed.) Pundits recommend that the surviving family conduct the sraddham every year on the relevant tithi and not stop the practice once one has visited Gaya after the passing of one's loved ones. Mata, pita, guru, deivam is the four-step ladder to reaching God.

INBRIEF

Amid interest rate cut hopes, RBI begins policy review

Soon after the Union Budget, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday began deliberations on the monetary policy review to be concluded on Friday, amid hopes of a 25 basis points' rate cut, the first in five years. One basis point equals 0.01%. While inflation is still to hit the RBI's 4% median target, the declining rupee also poses a challenge. This is the first meeting of the Monetary Policy Committee under the stewardship of RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra.

January Services growth was slowest since November 2022

India's services sector activity expanded at the slowest pace in well over two years in January amid softer increases in sales and output, a monthly survey said on Wednesday. The seasonally adjusted HSBC India Services PMI Business Activity Index fell from 59.3 in December to 56.5 in January – its lowest level since November 2022. A print above 50 on the Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) denotes an expansion in activity levels. PTI

Swiggy Q3 net loss widens to ₹799 cr. as expenditure surges

On-demand delivery platform Swiggy Ltd., which listed last year, said consolidated net loss for the third quarter ended December 31 widened to ₹799 crore from a net loss of ₹574 crore a year ago. Swiggy saw advertising and sales promotion spend rising more than ₹300 crore to ₹751 crore, employee benefit expenses climbing ₹220 crore to ₹657 crore, delivery-related charges up ₹263 crore to ₹1,127 crore and cost of purchase of stock-in trade climbing ₹233 crore to ₹1,557 crore.

Kia hit by a $155 mn. tax evasion charge

Indian tax rules could require Kia to pay up to $310 mn if it loses dispute, or roughly double the amount evaded, due to penalty and interest

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Less taxing: Tax authorities found Kia's Carnival 'car model was being imported in parts' 'to discharge lesser customs duty'. REUTERS

India has accused South Korea's Kia of evading taxes of $155 million by misclassifying component imports but the carmaker denied wrongdoing, the latest fight by a foreign automaker with New Delhi over tariffs, as per a document and two sources.

Kia competes with Hyundai and Maruti Suzuki in the world's third-largest auto market, where it has a share of 6% of roughly four million units a year, and its Kia Seltos and Sonet SUVs are among the top sellers.

Foreign companies in India face headaches from high taxes and long-drawn-out investigations.

For example, Tesla has publicly complained about high taxes on imported EVs and Volkswagen last week was sued over a demand for a record $1.4 billion in back taxes it called "impossibly enormous".

Confidential notice

Tax officers sent a confidential notice to Kia's Indian unit in April, flagging alleged tax evasion of ₹1,350 crore, as per a government notice *Reuters* is reporting for the first time.

The offence centred on incorrect declaration of imports of components for assembly of the carmaker's luxury Carnival minivan, the notice showed.

In a statement to *Reuters*, Kia India said it made "a detailed response, supported by comprehensive evidence and documentation to substantiate" its stand and the authorities were still reviewing the matter. Kia India is committed to complying with all regulations and has "consistently cooperated with" authorities, it added.

Finance Ministry and customs officials did not respond to *Reuters* queries.

In its 432-page notice, the government said tax authorities found Kia's Carnival "car model was being imported in parts or components in separate lots" via different ports, with the "intent to discharge lesser customs duty".

Kia devised the strategy to ensure the imports "could not (be) detected by customs," the government added in the notice.

Similar to VW case

Two sources said Kia's case was similar to that of Volkswagen (VW), accused of evading a higher tax of 30% to 35% applicable on parts imported in "completely knocked down" or CKD form in a single shipment, instead shipping separate parts over days, making them eligible for a tax rate of just 10% to 15%.

During probe, Kia's website showed the Carnival model sold in India as being in 'CKD' form with retail sales of 9,887 units between 2020 and 2022, the notice said.

Indian tax rules could require Kia to pay up to $310 million if it loses the dispute, or roughly double the amount evaded, due to penalty and interest.

The latest available corporate filings in India show Kia's domestic annual sales of $4.45 billion in fiscal 2022/23 were its highest ever, up 53% on year, for net profit of $243 million.

Kia has deposited ₹278 crore ($32 million) "under protest" as it continues to fight the Indian tax notice, which is still proceeding, said a government source who declined to be named as the matter is private.

Bombay High Court to hear Volkswagen's $1.4-bn tax dispute

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

The Bombay High Court on Wednesday agreed to hear the petition filed by Škoda Auto Volkswagen India challenging the tax demand of $1.4 billion by the Indian customs authorities issued on September 2024.

After the advocates Naresh Thacker and Gopal Mundhra representing the Volkswagen, mentioned the petition before a Division Bench of Justices, B.P. Colabawalla and Firdosh Pooniwalla, seeking urgent hearing, stating that they are challenging a show-cause notice issued in September 2024 under Customs Act, the Bench has decided to hear the matter at length in a hearing on February 17, 2025.

The automobile company that operates two manufacturing facilities in India, Pune and Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, had filed the petition in January 2025. The Volkswagen group, led by Škoda Auto Volkswagen India, is accused of deliberately misleading customs authorities through its mode of import of parts as individual units rather than as a component of a 'completely knocked down' (CKD) unit, which attracts a higher import duty.

The Customs authorities in their notice have alleged that the company misclassified its imports of Audi, Skoda and Volkswagen cars as individual parts instead of CKD units, thereby paying significantly lower customs duties. While the CKD units attract a 30% to 35% duty, Volkswagen is accused of declaring its imports as separate components in different shipments paying just 5 to 15% custom duties.

Representing the Customs Department, Additional Solicitor General N. Venkataraman submitted to the court that as per the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI), for over a decade, the company has been importing nearly complete cars without paying the applicable rates to CKD units.

The authorities have incriminating private records to base their claims against Volkswagen, he said. However, Volkswagen advocates argued that the concept of CKD parts was introduced only in the year 2002, and that the term lacked clarity in definition until 2011. In 2011, the company received a clarification from the tax authorities that was in favour of the company, and now the DRI had suddenly changed its interpretation of the rules, leading to the massive tax demand, the company's advocates argued.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	78,271	-0.40
US Dollar	87.43	-0.41
Brent oil	74.66	-1.80

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2324.60	23.10
Adani Ports	1144.35	19.25
Apollo Hosp	6944.65	152.45
Asian Paints	2275.20	-79.15
Axis Bank	1013.30	-2.00
Bajaj Auto	8927.80	16.40
Bajaj Finserv	1796.75	-16.50
Bajaj Finance	8509.45	34.10
Bharat Elec	288.95	4.45
Bharti Airtel	1660.45	-1.00
BPCL	261.25	5.30
Britannia Ind	4932.65	-95.70
Cipla	1436.80	-12.25
Coal India	382.85	6.30
Dr Reddys Lab	1227.55	7.60
Eicher Motors	5417.20	-32.90
Grasim Ind	2490.00	5.30
HCL Tech	1712.85	-19.70
HDFC Bank	1737.80	16.90
HDFC Life	627.85	1.95
Hero MotoCorp	4270.40	33.30
Hindalco	600.60	16.65
Hind Unilever	2391.05	-47.00
ICICI Bank	1267.70	-0.50
IndusInd Bank	1061.20	14.05
Infosys	1897.05	-1.75
ITC	448.15	-7.00
ITC Hotels Ltd	168.52	4.78
JSW Steel	949.90	5.65
Kotak Bank	1911.75	-16.75
L&T	3383.20	-55.95
M&M	3178.75	-10.30
Maruti Suzuki	13086.80	-23.15
NestleIndia	2248.95	-50.50
NTPC	319.60	0.50
ONGC	261.65	7.55
PowerGrid Corp	285.20	-0.45
Reliance Ind	1278.20	-7.00
SBI Life	1469.15	-3.25
State Bank	766.05	-13.15
Shriram Finance Ltd.	571.30	-5.45
Sun Pharma	1752.75	-12.50
TataConsumerProduct	1015.30	-18.90
Tata Motors	717.05	6.50
Tata Steel	134.40	0.98
TCS	4091.10	-15.95
Tech Mahindra	1661.00	1.95
Titan	3490.90	-106.80
Trent Ltd.	5749.95	-0.35
UltraTech Cement	11585.70	66.55
Wipro	317.10	0.85

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on February 05

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.27	87.59
Euro	90.92	91.25
British Pound	109.35	109.75
Japanese Yen (100)	57.16	57.38
Chinese Yuan	12.00	12.05
Swiss Franc	96.78	97.14
Singapore Dollar	64.70	64.94
Canadian Dollar	61.12	61.35
Malaysian Ringitt	19.72	19.81
Australian Dollar	54.85	55.06

Source:Indian Bank

Aurobindo Pharma faces over ₹155-cr. GST demand, penalty

N. Ravikumar
HYDERABAD

Generic drugmaker Aurobindo Pharma has received order under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017, asking it to pay GST, interest and a penalty of more than ₹155 crore.

Additional Commissioner of Central Tax, Ranga Reddy GST Commissionerate, Hyderabad, passed the order for the period 2017-18 to 2021-22 demanding GST of ₹77,61,35,242 along with interest. Further, a penalty of ₹77,61,35,242 was imposed, Aurobindo Pharma said in a filing on Wednesday.

An amount of ₹23,71,71,782 paid under protest by the company and ITC of ₹8,78,23,385 reversed by the company were ordered for appropriation, it said.

The order was passed on the contention that the company received excess IGST refund; non-surrender of IGST on short realisation of export proceeds with respect of exports during July 1, 2017 to March 23, 2020 and non-reversal of ITC in terms of Rule 37 of CGST Rules.

Company to file appeal

The company intends to file an appeal before the Appellate Authority, Aurobindo Pharma said.

Comment on Indian firms taken 'out of context': OpenAI CEO

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sam Altman

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman sought to downplay his earlier remarks that it was "hopeless" for Indian firms to compete with the United States on building a foundational Artificial Intelligence model, stating they were "taken out of context" during a chat on Wednesday with Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Mr. Altman's 2022 remarks have been in focus since the Chinese firm DeepSeek managed to build a foundational model at par with OpenAI and other AI models at a fraction of their costs. In his latest visit to India, he said that OpenAI was "really excited to do a lot more together" in India. He also cited so-called small language models, which are less expensive to build, while acknowledging 'tenfold' cost reductions in training AI models.

Is Cancer in Our Genes or is There More at Play?

Cancer fundamentally arises from changes in the DNA of the tissue where it originates, which controls cell growth and division. However, only 5-10% of cancers are caused by inherited genetic mutations in the germline (mutations present in all cells from birth and passed down through family). The vast majority, 90-95%, are due to acquired genetic changes during a person's lifetime, often influenced by environmental and lifestyle factors. This means that even those without a family history of cancer can develop the disease due to prolonged exposure to harmful triggers.

The Indian Cancer Burden

According to the Global Cancer Observatory, India recorded over 1.41 million new cancer cases annually in 2022, and this number is expected to rise to 1.53 million by 2025. The most common cancers in India include breast, cervical, lung, and oral cancers. While genetic predisposition plays a role, environmental factors like pollution, tobacco use, poor diet, and infections contribute significantly to cancer development. Tobacco alone accounts for nearly 40%* of all cancers in India, making it the largest preventable cause.

Nearly 1 in 4 colorectal cancer cases in India now occurs in those under 50 years – making diet and lifestyle changes your strongest defence.

Dr Vijay Agarwal
Lead Consultant - Medical Oncology
Apollo Hospitals, BG Road

How Environmental Factors Cause Cancer

Repeated exposure to harmful environmental agents, like chemicals and toxins, leads to chronic inflammation. These agents can damage cells and cause oxidative stress (where there are more free radicals than antioxidants), prompting the immune system to release inflammatory chemicals. Over time, this constant immune response can cause mutations at the DNA level, which accumulate and potentially trigger uncontrolled cell growth and cancer. Unlike inherited genetic mutations, these environmentally induced genetic changes can be prevented.

- **Air Pollution:** India has some of the world's highest levels of air pollution, with fine particulate matter (PM2.5) being a known carcinogen. Long-term exposure can alter DNA and lead to lung cancer, even in non-smokers.
- **Tobacco and Alcohol:** Tobacco use, including smoking and chewing tobacco, is the leading cause of oral and lung cancers, and a common risk factor in many cancers. Alcohol consumption is also linked to numerous cancers, including liver, breast, and oesophagus.
- **Infections:** Certain infections, such as Human Papillomavirus (HPV) and Hepatitis B/C, contribute to cervical and liver cancers. HPV infection is responsible for nearly 90% of cervical cancer cases.
- **Ultra-processed Foods:** Consumption of ultra-processed foods, high in preservatives and trans fats, increase the risk of colorectal and gastric cancers. Diets high in red and processed meats have also been linked to a higher risk of colorectal cancer due to harmful compounds formed during processing and cooking.
- **Occupational Hazards:** Factory, construction, and agricultural workers frequently come into contact with carcinogenic chemicals such as asbestos, benzene, and pesticides, increasing their risk of lung and blood cancers.

So What Can You Do?

Reducing exposure to carcinogens through tobacco cessation, vaccination against HPV and Hepatitis B, and dietary modifications can lower overall cancer risk. Maintaining a healthy weight, engaging in regular physical activity, managing stress, limiting alcohol intake, and prioritising a diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and whole grains also play a crucial role in cancer prevention. Understanding that most cancers are preventable, not inevitable, is key to reducing India's growing cancer burden and protecting future generations.

Source:
**Occurrence and Distribution of Cancers in South India, Asmin & Nusrath (2024)*

Apollo ProHealth PRESENTS
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IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE HINDU

A preventive healthcare initiative by **Apollo ProHealth** and **The Hindu**

Have questions for our doctors?
WhatsApp us at 89392 83283
or email us at sincerelyyourdoctor@thehindu.co.in

HC orders status quo in TAFE case

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court on Wednesday directed Chennai-based Tractors and Farm Equipment (TAFE) Limited and Massey Ferguson Corporation based in the United States, to maintain status quo until the disposal of a civil suit related to a dispute over the usage of the trademark 'Massey Ferguson' by TAFE.

In October last year, TAFE said it had secured an interim relief from the Madras HC in its favour in the dispute with Massey Ferguson. In its civil suit before the HC against the AGCO subsidiary, TAFE claimed the trademarks were distinctive and exclusively owned by it in India.

'RIL to double West Bengal outlay to ₹1 lakh cr. by 2030'

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

RIL is upgrading its Kolkata data centre to a state-of-the-art AI-ready unit, over the next 9 months

Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) chairman Mukesh Ambani said the group will double its investment in West Bengal by the end of the decade, even as its current outlays have created more than one lakh direct jobs and spurred significant economic growth in the State.

"In 2016, when I first attended this summit, Reliance's investments stood below ₹2,000 crore. Today, in less than a decade, our investments in Bengal have increased 20 times, and we have invested over ₹50,000 crore. Mamata Didi, we shall double this investment by the end of this decade," Mr. Ambani told Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee at the Bengal Global Business Summit 2025.

He also said RIL is upgrading its data centre in Kolkata to a state-of-the-art AI-ready unit that will be ready in nine months while Jio was building the State's first cable landing station at Digha.

"Jio's network now covers 100% of Bengal's population," he said. "I am particularly thankful to the people and our customers in Kolkata city, because they continue to maintain the record of the highest users of data in India on our Jio network," he noted.

Mr. Ambani said the group's new initiative *Swadesh* will help expand Bengal's fabulous artisan economy in other cities of the country and across the world. Reliance's New Energy Initiative, starting operations by the end of 2025, would contribute to Bengal's green economy.

"Our motto is "Solar Bangla for Sonar Bangla," he added.

ITC chairman Sanjiv Puri said the firm was headquartered in West Bengal and the company's confidence in the State in reflected in their expanding footprint, encouraged by the economic resurgence "we are witnessing here".

MANILA

Philippine V-P Duterte impeached by Lower House, faces Senate trial

AP

The Lower House in the Philippines impeached Vice-President Sara Duterte on Wednesday, accusing her of a wide range of crimes that included plotting to assassinate the President, large-scale corruption and failing to strongly denounce China's aggressive actions against Filipino forces in the disputed South China Sea. AP

BUENOS AIRES

Argentina to follow U.S. in quitting WHO, says President's office

AP

Argentina will pull out of the WHO, President Javier Milei's office said, following in the footsteps of the U.S. Mr. Milei's decision was based on "deep differences regarding health management especially during the pandemic," adding Argentina would not "allow an international body to interfere in our sovereignty." AFP

UNITED NATIONS

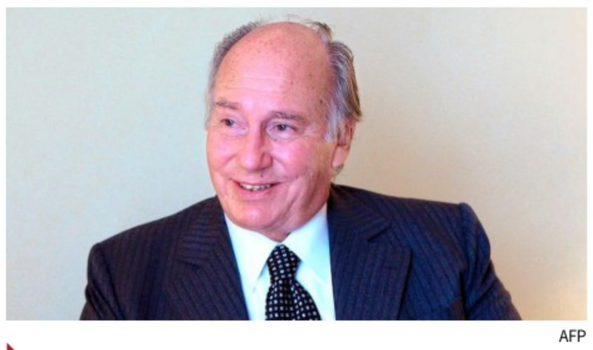
At least 2,900 dead in M23 capture of eastern DRC's Goma, says UN

AFP

Clashes last week in the eastern Congolese city of Goma, which saw the M23 armed group and Rwandan forces seize control, have left at least 2,900 people dead. "So far, 2,000 bodies have been collected from the Goma streets, and 900 remain in the morgues," Vivian van de Perre, deputy chief of the UN mission in the DRC said. AFP

LISBON

Aga Khan, leader of Ismaili Muslims and philanthropist, dead



AFP

The Aga Khan, imam of the Ismaili Muslims and head of a major development aid network, has died in Lisbon at the age of 88, his foundation announced on Wednesday. He was the founder of the Aga Khan Development Network, which finances development programmes particularly in Asia and Africa. AFP

Trump's Gaza takeover plan rejected by allies, foes alike

Australia, Ireland, China, New Zealand, Germany, Russia reiterate support for a two-state solution; Palestinian President Abbas calls for the UN to protect the territory's people and their rights

Associated Press
DUBAI

U.S. President Donald Trump's proposal that the United States "take over" the Gaza Strip and permanently resettle its Palestinian residents was swiftly rejected and denounced on Wednesday by American allies and adversaries alike.

Saudi Arabia, an important American ally, weighed in quickly on Mr. Trump's expanded idea to take over the Gaza Strip in a sharply worded statement, noting that its long call for an independent Palestinian state was a "firm, steadfast and unwavering position."

Old friends: Donald Trump meets Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Oval Office of the White House on Tuesday. AFP

The Prime Ministers of Australia and Ireland, Foreign Ministries from China, New Zealand and Germany, and a Kremlin spokesman all reiterated support for a two-state solution.

"Australia's position is the same as it was this morning, as it was last year, as it was 10 years ago," Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said.

Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan said Mr. Trump's proposal on "deportations from Gaza is not something that either the region or we would accept."

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas called for the UN to "protect the Palestinian people and their rights," saying that what Mr. Trump wanted to do would be "a serious violation of international law."

Hamas warns Gaza takeover by U.S. could 'ignite region'

Reuters
CAIRO

Hamas official Sami Abu Zuhri said on Wednesday that U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks about taking over the Gaza Strip are "ridiculous" and "absurd" and could destabilise West Asia.

"Trump's remarks about his desire to control Gaza are ridiculous and absurd, and any ideas of this kind are capable of igniting the region," Mr. Abu Zuhri said.

UN reaction

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will warn against "ethnic cleansing" in Gaza over Mr. Trump's suggestion Palestinians could be removed from the coastal territory, his spokesman said.

UN rights chief Volker Turk insisted that deporting people from occupied territory was strictly prohibited.

Meanwhile, Francesca Albanese, the special rapporteur on the rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, dismissed Mr. Trump's proposal as "utter nonsense".

Trump to sign order barring transgender women athletes from competing in sports

Reuters

U.S. President Donald Trump will sign an executive order on Wednesday designed to prevent people who were biologically assigned male at birth from participating in women's or girls' sporting events.

The order, which Mr. Trump is expected to sign at an afternoon ceremony, marks another aggressive shift by the President's second administration in the way the federal government deals with transgender people and their rights.

The President put out a sweeping order on his first day in office last month that called for the federal government to define sex as only male or female and for that to be reflected on official documents such as passports and in policies such as federal prison assignments.

Mr. Trump found during the campaign that his pledge to "keep men out of women's sports" resonated beyond the usual party lines. More than half the voters surveyed by AP VoteCast said support for transgender rights in government and society has gone too far. He leaned into the rhetoric before the election, pledging to get rid of the "transgender insanity," though his campaign offered little in the way of details.

Minority report: People gather to defend transgender people's rights in New York City on Monday. AFP

Wednesday's order – which coincides with National Girls and Women in Sports Day – will involve how his administration will interpret Title IX, the law best known for its role in pursuing gender equity in athletics and preventing sexual harassment on campuses.

Every administration has the authority to issue its own interpretations of the landmark legislation. The last two presidential administrations – including Mr. Trump's first – offer a glimpse at the push-pull involved.

The Biden administration rolled back in last April a policy set by the previous Trump administration, with one of its own that stipulated the rights of LGBTQ+ students would be protected by federal law and provided new safeguards for victims of campus sexual assault. The policy stopped short of explicitly addressing transgender athletes. Still, more than a half-dozen Republican-led states immediately challenged the new rule in court.

Trump's 'maximum pressure' policy is doomed to fail: Iran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on Wednesday that U.S. President Donald Trump's reimposition of a policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran will end in "failure" as it did during his first term.

"I believe that maximum pressure is a failed experiment and trying it again will turn into another failure," Mr. Araghchi told reporters following a Cabinet meeting, adding that Tehran was not pursuing nuclear weapons.

During his first term, Mr. Trump pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran, withdrawing the U.S. from a landmark nuclear deal between Iran and major powers, and reimposing biting sanctions.

Abbas Araghchi

The deal – known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – imposed curbs on Iran's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.

Tehran adhered to the deal until a year after Washington pulled out, but then began rolling back its commitments.

U.K. top diplomat in Ukraine as Zelenskyy discloses troop losses

Associated Press
KYIV

Russian war has killed 45,100 Ukrainian troops and injured close to 3,90,000 troops

U.K. Foreign Secretary David Lammy arrived in Kyiv on Wednesday, bringing a new support package for Ukraine a day after President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that more than 45,000 of his country's troops had died in the almost three-year war with Russia.

Mr. Lammy was due to announce £55 million ($69 million) in new support, including £3 million to send Ukrainian grain to war-ravaged Syria through the World Food Program.

British officials say the goal is to replace grain Syria received from Russia when it was ruled by deposed President Bashar al-Assad, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

The U.K. says much of that grain was stolen from Ukrainian land occupied by Russia's invading Army.

Mr. Lammy is also pledging £17 million to help repair Ukraine's energy system, which Russia has repeatedly pounded.

Meanwhile, Mr. Zelenskyy said in an interview broadcast Tuesday night that the war has killed 45,100 Ukrainian troops. The fighting also has injured close to 390,000 troops, he told *Piers Morgan Uncensored* on YouTube.

Russia claims to have captured two more villages in eastern and northeast Ukraine

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia on Wednesday said its forces have taken two more villages in east and northeast Ukraine as the conflict between the two countries nears its third anniversary and both sides try to press a ground advantage ahead of possible peace talks.

Kyiv has struggled to hold back larger Russian forces, which have been making steady advances in the embattled east of Ukraine for months.

Moscow's Defence Ministry said troops took the village of Novomlynsk in the northeastern Kharkiv region, where Russian forces have crossed the Oskil river that had previously separated the two armies.

Field day: Ukrainian firefighters try to put out a fire in a building after a drone strike in Kharkiv on Wednesday. AFP

The village lies in the east of the Kharkiv region on the Oskil river, which had marked the frontlines in parts of the region and where in recent weeks Russian forces have established a bridgehead and gained ground.

The Ministry also said troops took the village of Baranivka, north of the town of Ocheretyne, where Russian forces have pressed for months.

Russia has almost daily claimed the capture of east Ukrainian villages. Moscow's offensive has dragged on for three years this month.

Meanwhile, Russia and Ukraine each released 150 captured soldiers in their latest prisoner-of-war exchange, both sides said on Wednesday.

Separately, a blast at an Army recruitment centre in western Ukraine killed one person on Wednesday, the latest in a string of such incidents amid the country's divisive mobilisation drive.

GOVERNMENT OF ANDHRA PRADESH
SAMAGRA SHIKSHA, AMARAVATI

Short Tenders are invited through e-procurement platform for supply of Uniform Cloth under "Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vidyarthi Mitra" (SRKVM-1) vide Short Tender Notice NIT No.29 to 36/2024-25, dt.04-02-2025 in Samagra Shiksha, Amaravati at Patamata, Vijayawada for 08 works in the state of Andhra Pradesh.

Tenders downloading starts from : **07-02-2025 after 10.30 AM**
Last date for receipt of Tenders : **15-02-2025 upto 05.00 PM**
Note: Further details can be viewed at **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** or contact: **0866-2428599.**

DIPR 3509PP/CL, Dt.05-02-2025

Sd/- B.Srinivasa Rao, I.A.S.,
State Project Director, APSS, Amaravati

इंडियन बैंक Indian Bank
इलाहाबाद ALLAHABAD

(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Corporate Office, 254-260, Avvai Shanmugam Salai, Royapettah, Chennai-600014

PUBLIC NOTICE AND ADDENDUM FOR ACTIVATION OF INOPERATIVE ACCOUNTS

In reference to Bank advertisement published in this Newspaper on 01.02.2025, Our Bank has observed that certain accounts have remained inactive for over three years, with a zero balance.

We hereby once again request account holders of such inoperative accounts to reactivate their accounts, by visiting home branch or nearest Indian Bank branch and submit fresh KYC documents.

For any queries or assistance, please visit or contact your nearest Indian Bank branch.

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
Regd. Office : PSPCL Head Office, The Mall, Patiala
(Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813)
Website : www.pspcl.in, Contact No. 96461-17651

Tender Enquiry No. 163/Dy. CE/Th.Op./CD-28/Vol-XIII/O&M/GHTP/2025
Dated: 04/02/2025

Dy. Chief Engineer / Operation Circle, GHTP, Lehra Mohabbat invites E-Tender for the work: **To provide assistance to staff working under Chemical Department, GHTP Lehra Mohabbat, for operation of Water Treatment plant and Coal & Environment Laboratory** for a period of one year.

For detailed NIT & tender specifications please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** **E-Tender Enquiry No. 2025_POWER_134035_1** from 04-02-2025 from 17:00 Hrs onwards.

Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any, will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

GHTP-12/25 **76155/12/3878/2023/41412**

कार्यालय नगरपरिषद् हनुमानगढ़ – राजस्थान

क्रमांक एफ.15(विकास)( )2024–25/18150 दिनांक :– 03.02.2025

–: ई–निविदा सूचना संख्या 67/2024–25 :–

नगरपरिषद हनुमानगढ़ द्वारा ई–निविदा सूचना क्रमांक 17991–17999 दिनांक 30.01.2025 द्वारा राशि 385.46 लाख रुपये का 01 निर्माण/विकास (Construction of RUB (Pre-cast RCC Box Culvert) at Km 201/5-6 Between LC 176 and 179 C on HMH-SGNR Railway track, Hanumangarh junction) कार्य करवाये जाने हेतु योग्य संवेदको/फर्मो से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–टेण्डरिंग प्रक्रिया द्वारा दिनांक 03.02.2025 को सायं 3:00 बजे तक आमंत्रित की जाकर दिनांक 27.02.2025 को 3:00 बजे खोली जावेगी। निविदा की विस्तृत जानकारी वेबसाईट **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** व **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखी जा सकती है तथा निविदा के प्रपत्रों को भी डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है।

(एन0आई0बी0 DLB2425A5303 यू0बी0एन0 संख्या (कुल 01 कार्य)
DLB2425WSOB16102

आयुक्त
नगरपरिषद् हनुमानगढ़

राज.संवाद/सी/24/11238

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala)
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CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616

No. KMSCL/EP/1608/2025 **Dated : 05.02.2025**

e-TENDER NOTICE (Running Contract)

Online bids are invited for the supply and installation of the following equipment for various Government healthcare institutions across Kerala

Sl. No	Tender No.	Description	Online Pre-Bid Meeting	Last date of Online submission
1.	T565/2025	Fully imported slit lamp with Applanation Tonometer ,Semi automated Rotary Microtome Model B, Micro Needling & Radio Frequency, Diode Laser Triple wave length, ND/YAG Laser, Automated Tissue Stainer	14.02.2025 11.00 am.	27.02.2025 5.00 p.m.
2.	T566/2025	YAG Laser for Glaucoma Clinic, Neonatal ventilator Compatible with inhaled Nitric Oxide, Video intubating Bronchoscope Model B , Advanced integrated video Urodynamic system, Fundus Camera , RO Plant 2000 Litre	15.02.2025 11.00 am.	27.02.2025 5.00 p.m.
3.	T567/2025	3rd Party for Performance review of Biomedical Equipment Maintenance Programme in the State of Kerala, Fully automated serum Biochemistry Analyzer for Animal Husbandry, Hematology Analyzer for animal Husbandry, Animal Immuno fluoresce Analyzer (Hormone Analyzer)	18.02.2025 11.00 am.	01.03.2025 5.00 p.m.
		Hot air oven (Lab)- Various Types, Nebulizer Piston Compression, Syringe Pump, Oxygen concentrator, Gel card Centrifuge, Fetal Doppler , OT Light Shadow-less ceiling mount double Dome, OT Light Shadow-less ceiling mount Single Dome, OT Table Orthopedics - Manual Hydraulic, Anesthesia Machine , Multiparameter monitor	N.A.	25.02.2025 5.00 p.m.
3.	T568R/ 2025	Horizontal Electrophoresis Apparatus with all accessories, Magnetic Stirrer, Microwave Oven, Flexible Naso-Pharygo Laryngo-scope with Channel and Instruments, Refrigerated Centrifuge Small, Refrigerated Centrifuge with Multiple Rotors, ECG Machine- 3 Channel, EMG Machine, Carbon Monoxide Breath Analyzer, ACT Machine (Activated Clotting Time), Ultrapure Water Purification System, UV Transiluminator, Tissue Homogenizer, Thermal Cycler (PCR) with UPS, Gamma Ray Spectrometer with Well Counter, 64 channel LTM EEG Machine with Polysomnography and Facility for Titration Device with Interface Module, Electronic Balance, Dental Acrylzer, Dental Assistant Stool, Thermal Cycler (Dual Block), Minispin	N.A.	04.03.2025 5.00 p.m.

Tender documents and all other information related to tender and bidding process can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.

Sd/- Managing Director (Tender Inviting Authority)

RESULTS PENDING

Will have more clarity on Bumrah's fitness in the next few days: Rohit

FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Rohit Sharma said there will be some news on Jasprit Bumrah's fitness in the next few days. "Obviously, we are waiting on some update about his scan, which is due to happen in the next few days. Once we get that scan, we can give you more clarity on where he is and about his participation in the last ODI".

TOP STAR

Root has a crucial role in ODIs, says England skipper Buttler

K.R. DEEPAK

Jos Buttler feels Joe Root has a lot to offer to the England side in ODIs. "He's one of the great players of the game. He has loads of 50-over experience, which will be great for some guys who haven't played as much in our group. I feel he has a crucial role for us to play in these games".

RELEVANCE

People will be excited if the best play the best: Buttler on ODIs

K.R. DEEPAK

The ODI format still holds relevance, according to Jos Buttler. "If you talk to guys about winning the World Cup, they'd probably say 50 overs over the T20 one. But schedule is always the thing. If you can get the best players on the park playing against each other in whatever format, I think people will always be excited to watch it".

RAPID CLIMB

Abhishek zooms to the second spot in T20I batters' rankings

EMMANUAL YOGINI

India opener Abhishek Sharma leapfrogged 38 places to the second spot in the ICC men's T20I rankings for batters while Tilak Varma dropped a rung to third. Varun Chakaravarthy, who finished as the highest wicket-taker in the series against England, moved up three spots to joint-second in the bowling list.

It's time to put ODI cricket in the limelight again

The impending Champions Trophy means India and England will want to make use of the three-match series to fine-tune their plans; the Men in Blue bolstered by the return of the big guns

ENGLAND IN INDIA

S. Dipak Ragav
NAGPUR

It has been a challenging few months for the superstars of Indian cricket. The twin Test series defeats to New Zealand (0-3 at home) and Australia (1-3 away) have raised a lot of questions about the road ahead for some of those.

As the big names gather again to don the national colours for the three-match ODI series against England starting here at the VCA Stadium on Thursday, they will want to burnish their reputations.

The ODI format is fighting for relevance, sandwiched between the Tests and the T20Is, and bilaterals have lost sheen.

Still, these three outings are vital for both teams ahead of the ICC Champions Trophy later this month.

India's batting mainstays Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli and Shubman Gill have all had meagre returns with the bat in recent times, albeit in Tests, and have a point to prove.

Since losing in the 2023 World Cup final, the Men in Blue have played only six 50-over games.

In December 2023, a second-string squad won 2-1 in South Africa while the team with most of the players who will be part of this series and the Champions Trophy lost 0-2 to Sri Lanka last August.

Most batters, barring Rohit, struggled to get the spinners away in Lanka during the middle-overs, and it is something the batting group needs to address.

Though India has a stable batting core – led by Rohit and Gill at the top and followed by Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul, and Hardik Pandya – the team would look to sort out the rest of the line-up.

With skipper Rohit indicating that Rahul is set to continue to be the first-choice wicketkeeper, Rishabh Pant might have to wait for his chance, though the left-hander offers variety to a right-handed heavy batting order.

It will be interesting to see which two among Axar Patel, Ravindra Jadeja and Washington Sundar might fill the number seven and eight spots.

Jadeja hasn't played an ODI since the World Cup final. On the bowling front, the management might have to rotate its resources to give everyone game time.

Considering both Mohammed Shami and Kuldeep Yadav are coming off a long injury layoff, their progress will be keenly monitored.

The inclusion of Varun Chakaravarthy, who is set to make his debut in this series, has added another variable. Meanwhile, England is bolstered by the arrival of Joe Root, who can offer stability at number three.

The English line-up is similar to the one played in the T20Is, and the batters would hope for a better show than what they have managed so far.

Forgettable run

Vice-captain Harry Brook has had a forgettable run in India so far, struggling against spinners and would like to address it soon.

The visitor has added leggie Rehan Ahmed to the squad to strengthen its spin arsenal.

Having lost the T20I series 1-4, Jos Buttler's men would want to show a better account of themselves and not leave Indian shores empty-handed.

The teams: India (from): Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill (Vice-capt.), Yashasvi Jaiswal, Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L. Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Ravindra Jadeja, Washington Sundar, Axar Patel, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohammed Shami, Arshdeep Singh and Varun Chakaravarthy.
England (XI): Jos Buttler (Capt.), Harry Brook (Vice-capt.), Phil Salt (wk), Joe Root, Ben Duckett, Liam Livingstone, Adil Rashid, Saqib Mahmood, Jofra Archer, Jacob Bethell and Brydon Carse.

Left-field option? With Rohit backing Rahul for the first-choice 'keeper role, Pant might have to wait for an opportunity. K.R. DEEPAK

'Varun will be in contention for the Champions Trophy'

S. Dipak Ragav
NAGPUR

A combative Rohit Sharma clearly stated that he is not too worried about his form and is instead focusing on the road ahead.

During the customary pre-match press conference ahead of the first ODI against England on Wednesday, the skipper was not pleased when asked if he is looking forward to returning to a format in which he has had a lot of success, considering his lean run in Tests in the last few months.

"What kind of a question is that?" snapped Rohit before adding, "This is a different format, different time. As cricketers, we know there will be ups and downs, and I have faced a lot in my career, so this is nothing new to me.'

"I am looking forward to the challenge, not looking at what has happened in the past. A lot of good things have happened as well. It's important that I focus on what is coming up and what lies ahead for me. It is as simple as that. Look to try and start the series on a high."

On Varun Chakaravarthy's inclusion in the squad and the possibility of him even playing in the Champions Trophy, Rohit felt it was something that could be discussed.

"He has certainly shown something different. I understand that it was in T20 format, but he has got something different. So we just wanted to have an option and see what we can do with him. During the series, it presents us an opportunity to play him at some stage and see what he is capable of."

"Right now, we are not thinking about whether we are going to take him or not but definitely, he will be in contention. If things plan out really well for us and he does what is required, then there is something that we need to think about," said Rohit.

When asked if the team will look to continue the approach that they followed during the 2023 World Cup, Rohit said it is something that they would consider.

"There is a certain type of cricket we want to play. Whether it means we have to go and do what we did in the World Cup, we will try and do that. Guys know exactly what is required of each one of us. It's been a while since we played this format, so it's just about coming together and trying to (pick from) where we left off during the World Cup".

Rohit and Gambhir... talking tactics. K.R. DEEPAK

India-England H2H in ODIs

	M	India	England	Tied	NR
Overall	107	58	44	2	3
In India	52	34	17	1	0

The schedule: February 6 *(Nagpur)*; February 9 *(Cuttack)*; February 12 *(Ahmedabad)*

All matches start at 1.30 p.m.

Amul presents SPORTSTAR ACES 2025 INDIA TRIUMPHS
In association with IndianOil

Nominees for the National Team of the Year

2024 was a landmark year for Indian sports with a host of achievements across several disciplines. The annual ***Sportstar*** Aces Awards seek to honour the trailblazers.

MEN'S CRICKET TEAM

- Won the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024, held in the West Indies and USA
- Jasprit Bumrah was named player of the tournament at the T20 World Cup
- Beat England 4-1 and Bangladesh 2-0 in home Test series, drew 1-1 in South Africa

The awards ceremony will be held in Mumbai on February 14

MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM

- Won Olympic bronze medal in Paris
- Bagged successive Olympic medals for the first time in 52 years
- Beat Australia in the Olympics for the first time in 52 years
- Defended Asian Champions Trophy title in China

WOMEN'S TABLE TENNIS TEAM

- Reached the round of 16 at the World Championships in Busan
- Qualified for the team event at the Olympics for the first time
- Reached the quarterfinals at the Paris Olympics
- Won its first-ever medal—a bronze—at the Asian Championships

WOMEN'S CHESS TEAM

- Won India's first-ever gold medal in the women's section at the Chess Olympiad
- Divya Deshmukh and Vantika Agrawal won individual gold medals at the Chess Olympiad
- Helped retain the Gaprindashvili Cup, awarded to the country with the best overall performance across both open and women's categories

MEN'S CHESS TEAM

- Won India's first-ever gold medal in the open section at the Chess Olympiad
- D. Gukesh and Arjun Erigaisi won individual gold medals at the Chess Olympiad
- Helped retain the Gaprindashvili Cup, awarded to the country with the best overall performance across both open and women's categories

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Voting lines open for 2025 Sportstar Aces Awards. Scan the QR code

INBRIEF

Gardner appointed Gujarat Giants skipper for WPL-3

Australia all-rounder Ashleigh Gardner was on Wednesday appointed captain of Gujarat Giants for the third edition of the Women's Premier League beginning on February 14. The 27-year-old replaced Beth Mooney, who will now focus on her batting. Giants will take on Royal Challengers Bengaluru in the opener. The Gujarat outfit finished fifth and last on the previous two occasions.

Sriram-Cabral duo moves into the quarterfinals

Sriram Balaji in partnership with Francisco Cabral of Portugal beat Arthur Bouquier and Arthur Gea of France 4-6, 7-5, [10-4] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €181,250 Challenger tennis tournament in Lille, France, on Wednesday.

Other result: $100,000 Challenger, Brisbane: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jesse Delaney (Aus) & Mark Whitehouse (GBR) bt Charles Broom (GBR) & Anirudh Chandrasekar 6-4, 6-7(5), [10-7].

Vidarbha retains 17-member squad for Ranji quarterfinal

Last season's runner-up Vidarbha on Wednesday retained its 17-member squad to face Tamil Nadu in its Ranji Trophy quarterfinal in Nagpur from February 8.

The Vidarbha squad: Akshay Wadkar (Capt. & wk), Atharva Taide, Aman Mokhade, Yash Rathod, Harsh Dubey, Akshay Karnewar, Yash Kadam, Akshay Wakhare, Aditya Thakare, Shubham Kapse, Nachiket Bhute, Siddhesh Wath (wk), Yash Thakur, Danish Malewar, Parth Rekhade, Karun Nair, and Dhruv Shorey.

Mumbai-Haryana Ranji quarterfinal shifted to Kolkata

Mumbai's Ranji Trophy quarterfinal against Haryana has been shifted from Lahli to Kolkata by BCCI. All the quarterfinals will be five-day affairs, to be played between Feb. 8 and 12. Although no reason has been given for the change, it is learnt that receding winter in the northern region could pose challenges like morning fog at Lahli and affect the proceedings.

LIVE TELECAST

Sri Lanka vs Australia: 2nd Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10 a.m.

India vs England: 1st ODI, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 1.30 p.m.

Zimbabwe vs Ireland: Only Test, day 1, FanCode, 1.30 p.m.

I-League: Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 & 7 p.m.

ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioCinema, 7.30 p.m.

Serie A: gxr.world, 1.15 a.m. (Friday)

Suruchi overshadows the top stars, strikes gold in the air pistol event

Haryana shooter not perturbed by presence of Olympians Rhythm, Rahi and Asian Games winner Palak; says she was confident of claiming big prize

NATIONAL GAMES

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

Forever crazy about wrestling, Inder Singh wanted his daughter Suruchi Phogat to be in the sport too. The ex-Armyman came from Sasroli village in Haryana's Jhajjar district, one of country's leading wrestling belts, but with the little girl suffering a collarbone injury following a fall she had to quit the sport after training for about six months.

But Inder wanted his daughter to do some sport.

"One day in 2019, my father and I entered a shooting range. And I was very interested to see the shooters there," said Suruchi, in a chat with *The Hindu*, at the Trishul Shooting Range here on Wednesday.

That journey brought the 18-year-old her maiden National Games gold in the women's 10m air pistol event (245.7 points) today. She had announced her arrival in December while winning the senior, junior and youth 10m air pistol golds at the New Delhi Nationals in December.

There were some big names in the event here, like Paris Olympian Rhythm Sangwan, another seasoned Olympian Rahi Sarnobat and Asian Games gold medallist Palak Gulia. But Suruchi was not perturbed.

"I was confident of winning gold because I topped yesterday's qualification too. Nobody is my challenger, I'm my own challenger," she said.

Haryana's Palak (243.6) and Punjab's Simranpreet Kaur Brar (218.8) took the silver and bronze respectively while Rahi was fourth.

Incidentally, double Olympic bronze medallist Manu Bhaker also comes from Jhajjar and it's wonderful to see another young talent popping up from the district.

And she was very clear about the people who keep inspiring her.

"My parents, my coach Suresh Singh and myself...and my big goal in the LA 2028 Olympics," said Suruchi.

Suruchi travels more than 100km every day by train to Bhiwani to train for shooting.

"The journey takes about one and half hours," she said.

The long journey and the hard work are now bringing her rich rewards.

Golden girl: Suruchi was on target in the 10m air pistol final. RITU RAJ KONWAR

Kerala enters football final; compound archery gold for Rajat and Deepshikha

Stan Rayan
DEHRADUN

Kerala defeated Assam 3-0, via penalty shootout, and entered the men's football final of the 38th National Games at Haldwani on Wednesday. The teams were goalless at the end of the regular period. Captain Ajay Alex, Sachin Sunil and Bijesh T. Balan were successful for Kerala in the shootout.

In Friday's final, Kerala will meet host Uttarakhand which defeated Delhi 6-4, via penalties. The teams were level 1-1 at the end of the regular period in the semifinal. In the compound archery event here, Rajat Chauhan and Deepshikha won the men's and women's individual golds at the Rajiv Gandhi Cricket Stadium.

"My last National Games gold came in Thiruvananthapuram in 2015," said Rajat.

Meanwhile, the presence of Aditi Gopichand Swami, the first Indian to win an individual World Championship title in 2023, could not help Maharashtra to the women's compound team title. Maharashtra took the silver behind champion Punjab.

On target: Rajat and Deepshikha won the individual men's and women's golds in the compound archery. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The results: Compound archery: **Men's individual:** 1. Rajat Chauhan (Raj) 144, 2. Hritik Sharma (J&K) 141, 3. Thirumuru Ganesh Mani Ratnam (AP) 149. **Women's individual:** 1 Deepshikha (Har) 148, 2. Parneet Kaur (Pun) 144, 3. Avneet Kaur (Pun) 143.

Mixed team event: 1. Haryana (Rishabh Yadav & Deepshikha) 154, 2. Andhra Pradesh (148), 3. Punjab (158). **Men's team event:** 1. Delhi (Abhishek Verma, Priyansh, Aman Saini, Madhur) 234, 2. Haryana (232), 3. Rajasthan (229). **Women's team event:** 1. Punjab (Parneet Kaur, Avneet Kaur, Jasveer Kaur, Raj Kaur) 228, 2. Maharashtra (227), 3. Telangana (232).

Teichmann digs deep to get past a dogged Hartono

MUMBAI OPEN WTA 125

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

Former World No. 21 Jil Teichmann, now ranked 117th, defeated a determined Arianne Hartono 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3 at the L&T Mumbai Open WTA 125, held at the Cricket Club of India here on Wednesday.

Hartono started well, using her powerful forehands and strong serves to take the opening game. The Swiss responded with a solid service game to make it 1-1.

However, the Dutch player quickly regained control, breaking Teichmann and building a 4-1 lead.

Teichmann struggled with her rhythm initially and made a few errors, but managed to pull herself together, winning a game with a perfect ace and then another with a backhand slice. She clawed her way back to level 4-4. Despite the Swiss player's fightback, Hartono won the first set in the tie-break.

Srivalli and Riya... powering ahead in doubles. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the second set, Teichmann regained her composure and started to play more aggressively. She moved well across the court and took a 4-2 lead in no time.

With forehand volleys, solid serves, and precise returns, Teichmann extended her advantage to 5-2, eventually taking the set 6-3.

She carried the momentum into the decider, quickly racing to a 5-1 lead with a combination of deft backhand slices and solid groundstrokes. Though the Dutch player won two straight games, the Swiss sealed the match in the ninth with a forehand volley.

The results (first round):

Singles: Jil Teichmann bt Arianne Hartono 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3.

Doubles: Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Riya Bhatia bt Kyoko Okamura & Mai Hontama 5-7, 6-2, [10-7].

Prarthana Thombare & Arianne Hartono bt Naho Sato & Peangtarn Plipuech 6-2, 6-3.

Ankita Raina & Dalila Jakupovic lost to Oksana Kalashnikova & Nao Hibino 7-6(4), 6-2.

Illness forces Vesely out of Chennai Open

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
CHENNAI

Jiri Vesely had a brief bout of nausea, took a pill, and was squeezed for effort by opponent Ergi Kirkin before conceding the match 7-6(7), 6-7(3) in the first round of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger at the SDAT tennis stadium here on Wednesday.

Vesely broke Kirkin's serve in the very first game but the Turkiye player hit back to make it 4-4. Vesely served an ace to save a set point at 4-5, stretching it to a tie-break.

Kirkin rallied from 2-5 to draw level 5-5 and went on to lead 7-6, but Vesely came up with a couple of forehand crosscourt winners and a backhand crosscourt winner to clinch the opening set.

The second, too, went to a tie-break where Kirkin made it 2-2 after losing the first two games. Two unforced errors from the Czech and a forehand crosscourt volley in between helped Kirkin go ahead 5-2.

Though Vesely won the next point, Kirkin went on to clinch the tie-break 7-3 as Vesely made a couple of unforced errors. As they returned for a break, Vesely decided to retire.

On the prowl: Galarneau made it to the second round with ease. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

The results (singles):

Second round: Elias Ymer (Swe) bt Jay Clarke (GBr) 7-5, 7-6(2).

Rio Noguchi (Jpn) bt Jacopo Berrettini (Ita) 7-5, 6-3.

First round: Alexis Galarneau (Can) bt Egor Agafonov 6-4, 6-1.

Ergi Kirkin (Tur) bt Jiri Vesely (Cze) 6-7(7), 7-6(3) (retd.).

Oleksandr Ovcharenko (Ukr) bt Zsombor Piros (Hun) 7-6(4), 6-4.

Former World No. 1 Halep retires

Agence France-Presse
BUCHAREST

Former tennis World No. 1 Simona Halep announced her retirement on Tuesday after a first-round defeat at the WTA Cluj Napoca tournament in Romania. The 33-year-old lost 6-1, 6-1 to 72nd-ranked Italian Lucia Bronzetti.

"I don't know if it is with joy or sadness that I speak to you but I made this decision in my soul and conscience, I have always been lucid. My body no longer follows, but today I wanted to play and say my goodbyes on the court," Halep told the crowd.

The two-time Grand Slam champion, who had been working to re-establish herself after a doping ban, pulled out of Australian Open qualifying last month citing pain in her knee and shoulder.

Halep returned to tennis in March last year after her career had been on hold since October 7, 2022 after testing positive for roxadustat at the US Open.

Halep. AP

The winner of the 2018 French Open and 2019 Wimbledon singles titles was then caught up in a second affair, over "irregularities" in the data of her biological passport. She was handed a four-year ban by the ITIA, but successfully appealed to the Court of Arbitration for Sport, arguing her positive test for roxadustat was the result of a tainted supplement.

Halep won 24 WTA titles over her 19-year career including the French Open in 2018 and Wimbledon in 2019. She also played in three other Grand Slam finals – the French Open in 2014 and 2017 and the Australian Open in 2018.

Started afresh and working my way up, says Teichmann

Tarun Shastry
MUMBAI

Jil Teichmann was once ranked as high as 21 in the world. The 27-year-old Swiss has, however, had a turbulent time in recent years with injuries and personal struggles pushing her down to 117.

In an interaction with *The Hindu*, Teichmann reflected on her first-round win over Arianne Hartono in the Mumbai Open WTA 125 here on Wednesday.

"It was definitely hard-fought. I wasn't getting into a rhythm initially, but I became more aggressive in the second and third sets, wanting to make it tough for her," Teichmann said.

Teichmann also opened up about the struggles she experienced in 2023.

"Some personal issues started affecting my tennis. I lost over 25 matches that year and, though I had my moments, losing them was emotionally draining. I also had back problems and injuries." Despite the setbacks, Teichmann is optimistic.

The goal: Teichmann hopes to break into the top 100.

"I've started afresh and working my way up. I'm happy with the progress. I've learned a lot, especially mentally. I understand myself better now. My coach, who's also one of my best friends, has helped me focus on emotional strength.

"My goal is to advance as far as possible in this tournament, break into the top 100, and qualify for the main draws in the Slams".

Bumrah's ability to control the ball is like that of Akram: Aaron

Says there is a need to develop other fast bowlers around the pace ace; hails the efforts in Border-Gavaskar Trophy series

CRICKET

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

In a different league: Aaron says Bumrah makes exceptional use of his natural ability. FILE PHOTO: GETTY IMAGES

Former India pacer Varun Aaron compared Jasprit Bumrah's ability to control the ball to that of the great Wasim Akram while talking about Bumrah's performance in the Border-Gavaskar Trophy series.

"That's one of the finest series I've seen an Indian fast bowler have. I would say the last memory I've had of a subcontinent fast bowler bowling that way is that of Wasim Akram - absolutely doing whatever he wanted to do with that cricket ball, and that's what Bumrah did this time," he said at the Keenan stadium in Jamshedpur.

Aaron highlighted Bumrah's exceptional use of his natural ability.

"I think he makes the best use of his natural ability, which is pace off the wicket. That's why, no matter how many times you play Bumrah, you can never really line him up. He's so quick off the wicket. That's because he's very hyper-mobile. He gets that extra whip through the end of his action. And that's what's his biggest strength," he said.

The 35-year-old emphasised that India needs to work on developing the other pacers around Bumrah. "I would say India has to still work on the other parts around Bumrah. Because, in the BGT series, Bumrah was a standout by far. Nobody could come close to him. And I feel that gap should narrow if India wants to win tours abroad.

"I think it's just about experience. You've got a young fast-bowling lineup, except for Bumrah. Siraj also has not been there for years. He's also pretty new. So, I think the more experience they get, the better they'll get," he said.

Raring to go: Jhulan, Edwards, Harmanpreet and Sanjana at the media interaction. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Harmanpreet throws her weight behind Yastika

WPL

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

While Yastika Bhatia may be India's second-choice keeper in the national setup, she remains the top pick for the Mumbai Indians in the Women's Premier League.

However, there may be some competition for the southpaw from G. Kamalini, the new kid on the block who announced her arrival with a sterling outing during India's triumphant U19 World Cup campaign.

Ahead of the upcoming edition of WPL, MI captain Harmanpreet Kaur threw her weight behind Yastika.

"Last year was really good for Yastika. And Kamalini has been brought in as a promising under-19 player.

"Our support staff is going to polish her skills, she needs to work very hard," Harmanpreet said here on Wednesday at the pre-season media interaction. "To replace Yastika is difficult for me to believe. But we have a few days left for the season where we will play a few practice matches.

"At this time, it's great to see so much competition for places in the team. The new faces we have picked are good, so it's going to be an exciting season for me as a captain and for the team as well."

Making an impact

MI mentor and bowling coach Jhulan Goswami acknowledged the impact the WPL is having on the wider ecosystem.

"If you go to domestic cricket, you'll see the girls now want to play a good brand of cricket and impress scouts to play in the WPL," Jhulan said.

"I have travelled to different parts of the country where you would earlier never get recognition, but people now want to know when the next WPL is coming. The impact of the WPL is amazing."

Head coach Charlotte Edwards hoped for a fruitful season with MI, the inaugural edition champion, which returns to the Brabourne Stadium for the last leg of the competition.

Amazing experience

"The first year was an amazing experience to win the WPL. We played some fantastic cricket last year, which is all we can ask for.

"We spoke in the team that we wanted people to want to turn on their TV and watch Mumbai Indians," Edwards said.

"We certainly did that last year. We had some entertaining games of cricket. We missed out by the narrowest of margins, which was disappointing.

"This year there is just pure excitement to keep building this team, keep improving, get back to CCI, and be in another final this year."

WPL's third edition will begin on February 14.

Mumbai Indians will open its campaign against Delhi Capitals the following day.

Mohun Bagan ease past Punjab FC

Smooth sailing: Mohun Bagan cruised to a victory. PTI

ISL

Amitabha Das Sharma
KOLKATA

Jamie Maclaren scored twice to star in Mohun Bagan Super Giant's 3-0 win over Punjab FC in an ISL match on Wednesday and improved its chances of retaining the League Shield.

Liston Colaco scored the other goal as the home team took its tally to 46 points from 20 matches and opened up a 12-point lead over second-placed Jamshedpur FC, which has played two matches less.

The opening half did not see much action as Bagan struggled to open up space against the tight defence of the Punjab side. Greg Stewart had a chance in the 10th minute but his right-footed effort was nicely tipped over by Ravi Kumar. Mohun Bagan continued to show its offensive intent with regular incursions inside the Punjab box but the visitor's defence somehow held firm. The match came alive in the 55th minute when Punjab launched a counter-attack and saw its play-maker Pula Vidal moving into the Bagan box. His accurate cross found Petros Giakoumakis unmarked on the Bagan goalmouth, but the Greek forward found his attempt coming off the upright.

This seemed to bring Mohun Bagan out of its slumber and the host took the lead in the very next minute (56th minute) to set itself on the victory path. Maclaren, assisted by a cross from Dipendu Biswas, broke the deadlock with a nice finish. Colaco doubled the lead in the 63rd from a fine solo effort before Maclaren completed the tally with his second in the 90th.

The result:

Mohun Bagan 3 (Maclaren 56, 90, Colaco 63) bt Punjab FC 0.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (ELE), Bommanahalli Zone.
Begur Main Road Bommanahalli, Bangalore-68

No: BBMP/EE/ELE/BHZ/TEND/04/2024-25 Date : 05.02.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through KPP Portal Only) Short Term (Two Cover)

1. Executive Engineer (Ele), Bommanahalli Zone, invites Tenders in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible contractors registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike /KPWD/ CPWD/ Railways/ MES/National Highway or any other equivalent central/state government organizations on behalf of the commissioner, BBMP for Electrical work as detailed in the table. The bidders may submit their bids for works given in the table below through KPPP portal of the Government of Karnataka **(viz https://kppp.karanataka.gov.in).** The bidders are advised to note the minimum qualification criteria specified in clause-3 of the ITT to qualify for award of the contract. **2. a)** Tender documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **07-02-2025. b)** Last Date and Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications by **13-02-2025 by 16:00hrs. c)** Tenders must be submitted online through the KPP portal on or before **24-02-2025 by 16:00hrs. d)** Date and time of pre bid meeting will be on **14-02-2025 at 11:30hrs. e)** The technical bids will be opened on **25-02-2025 at 16:30hrs. f)** The financial bids will be opened on **28-02-2025 at 11:00hrs.**

Sl. No.	Name of the Works/Amount put to Tender /EMD amount in Rs.
1	Providing Ornamental & Architectural Lighting Fixtures to Flyovers under Brand Bengaluru-Vibrant Bengaluru coming under BBMP Limits. **Amount put to Tender (Rs. in lakhs) :** 805.00, **EMD amount in Rs. :** Rs. 12.08 Lakhs (Rs. Twelve Lakh and Eight thousand only) (Rs. 02.00 Lakhs (Rs. Two Lakh only) shall be paid through online Payment in KPP Portal and remaining Rs 10.08 Lakhs (Rs. Ten lakh and Eight Thousand only) shall be paid through Bank. Guarantee)

Sd/-, Executive Engineer (Elec.) Bommanahalli Zone, BBMP

VISVESVARAYA TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
"Gnana Sangama", Belagavi - 590018, Karnataka

Ref.No: VTU/BGV/SAP/CW-6/T-687/2024-25/5697 Date: 05-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi invites (Two Cover Systems) e-Tender for the following work through e-Procurement Tendering Mode. **Name of Work: Tender for Supply of Stationary Materials to Various Sections of VTU, on Annual Rate Contract Basis for a One Year.** Amount Put to Tender: **Rs. 50,00,000/-,** EMD Amount: **Rs. 1,00,000/-.** Last Date for Receipt of Tender: **19-02-2025 upto 2.30 PM.** Date of Opening of Tender: **20-02-2025 at 4.00 PM.** The details regarding participation in the e-Tendering can be accessed by logging to our VTU Website: **www.vtu.ac.in** and e-Procurement Portal Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Registrar
VTU, Belagavi

DIPR/Belagavi/1601/Adverto/2024-25

BANGALORE RURAL ZILLA PANCHAYATH
Office of Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Bangalore Rural, Anand Rao Circle, Bangalore - 560009.

No: EE/PRED/BNG(R)/TND No-32/TS/2024-25 Date: 03.02.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.32/2024-25
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Short Term Tender is invited through KPP Portal by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D, Bangalore Rural, under 2024-25 ZP Action Plan Work: 3054 Taskforce Head of accounts.

The work details can be obtained from the KPP Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** The Tender Documents can be obtained and submitted on or before **12-02-2025 upto 5.00 PM.** Further details contact this office during office working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division,
Bangalore Rural Dist. Bangalore

DIPR/CP/4836/SPAN/2024-25

Karnataka Digital Economy Mission (KDEM)
An initiative of the Dept of IT, BT and S&T, GoK
Email: gm.admin@karnatakadigital.in

RFP Code: KDEM/RFP/02/2025-26 Dated: 05 Feb 2025

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Proposals are invited from reputed/ experienced firms/ companies/ agencies for the purpose of provision of Public Relations and related Consultancy Services to KDEM.

Last date of application: **28 February 2025 up to 5:00 PM**
RFP Document No. KDEM/2024-25/SE0002 is available on the KPP portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/) from 05 Feb 2025.
Details can also be obtained from our website: **www.karnatakadigital.in**

Department of Health & Family Welfare
KARNATAKA STATE AIDS PREVENTION SOCIETY
Arogya Soudha, 4th Floor, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bangalore - 560 023.
Tel.: 080-2955 7021, e-mail : pdksaps@gmail.com

No: KSAPS/PRC/21/2024-25 Date:03.02.2024

INVITATION FOR TENDER
Through KPP Portal only

Tenders (Two Covers) are invited for Printing & Supply of ICTC formats & Cards under KPP Portal system. For more details are available at website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** Last date for submission of tender on **25.02.2025 at 5:30pm.**

Sd/- Project Director
DIPR/CP/JA/4841/2024-25 **Karnataka State Aids Prevention Society.**

Mysore Medical College and Research Institute
(An Autonomous Institute of Government of Karnataka)
Irwin Road, Mysore-570001
Ph: +91-0821-2520512 (Off.), 2520803 (Fax)
Website : www.mmcri.karnataka.gov.in/
E-mail : mmcrimysore@yahoo.com
No. Equipment/35/2024-25 Date: 31.01.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Tender has been invited as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements Act 1999 for the supply of various equipments to the Dept. of Respiratory Medicine, PKTB & CD Hospital, MMC & RI, Mysuru. The Tender documents may be downloaded from E-procurement website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 04.02.2025 and last date for submission of Tenders through E-procurement website is 05.03.2025 upto 5.00 PM. Those tenders which are not submitted with E.M.D. will be rejected. If, the last date for submission of Tender treated as holiday, the next working day will be considered as last date. No Notification in this regard will be announced.

DIPR/DDMYS/1231/KSMCA/854/2024-25 **Sd/- Director and Dean**

CITY CORPORATION BELAGAVI
C.T.S. No. 4821/26, 4821/27, R.S. No. 1005, Subhasha Nagara, Belagavi, Ph. : 0831-2405304, E-mail : itstaff_ulb_belgaum@yahoo.com, Website : www.belgaumcity.mrc.gov.in

No. : C.C.B./Breakfast/TND/E-Proc/2024-25
Date : 03-02-2025

PUBLICATION OF E-PROCUREMENT TENDER

The Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Belagavi has invited tenders on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal for the **Supply of daily Morning Breakfast to the Permanent PKs and Sanitation Workers working in the Corporation.**

The Last Date for Submission of the said Tender is : 18-02-2025. Further details along with the time table can be obtained from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in). In case of any change in the said tender due to technical reasons, the details of the said change will be published only on the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Sd/- Commissioner,
DIPR/Belagavi/1595/Manipal/2024-25 **City Corporation Belagavi.**

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್,
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ಸಂಕೀರ್ಣ, ನೆಹರೂ ಮೈದಾನ ರಸ್ತೆ, ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು-575001.
ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dhodkannada2019@gmail.com ಫೋನ್ ನಂಬ್ರ: 0824-2423672
ಸಂ.: ಎಸ್‌ಯುಪಿ/89/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04-02-2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಇ-ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಮೂಲಕ)

ವಿಷಯ: 2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ 211 ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ, 18 ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್, 10 ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು, 1 ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕಿ, 1 ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕರ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಎರಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಸಿಸ್ಟಂನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

(1) ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ/ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05-02-2025 (2) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 5,97,00,000.00 (ಐದು ಕೋಟಿಯ ತೊಂಬತ್ತೇಳು ಲಕ್ಷ ಮಾತ್ರ) (3) ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25-02-2025 ಸಮಯ: 04.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (4) ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜನ್ನು (ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಂತರ್ಜಾಲ ಮುಖಾಂತರ) ಅಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 06-03-2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 04.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ (5) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆ ತೆರೆಯುವ ವೇಳೆ ಮತ್ತು ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07-03-2025 ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 04.30 ಸ್ಥಳ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ ಕೊಠಡಿ, ದ.ಕ. ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (6) ಹಣಕಾಸಿನ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: ಸೂಚಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

(7) ಪಡೆಯಲು ಬಯಸಿರುವ ಸೇವೆಗಳ ವಿವರ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ

1	ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಡಿ	211
2	ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್	18

3	ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು	10
4	ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕಿ	1
5	ಗಣಕಯಂತ್ರ ಸಹಾಯಕ	1

(8) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ಸ್ಥಳ ಮತ್ತು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಲಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ: ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ ಕಚೇರಿ, ದ.ಕ. ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಕಟ್ಟಡ, ನೆಹರು ಮೈದಾನದ ಎದುರುಗಡೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು. (9) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನೊಂದಿಗೆ ಪಾವತಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ರೂ 8,96,000/- (ರೂಪಾಯಿ ಎಂಟು ಲಕ್ಷದ ತೊಂಬತ್ತಾರು ಸಾವಿರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಸಹಿ/- ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ಕನ್ನಡ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/1314/24-25 dt.05.01.2025

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Joint Director (Animal Husbandry), Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru- 560 002.

No: JD(AH)/PR-547/2024-25 Date:04.02.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal Only)

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites tender from eligible bidders for **Providing Manpower to Slaughter Houses of BBMP on Outsource Basis.**

Tender Reference No.	BBMP/2024-25/SE1077/CALL-2
Date of Commencement of downloading the documents from KPP portal	from 04.02.2025 onwards.
Last date & Time for submission of Queries in KPP portal	07.02.2025 upto 5.00 p.m.
Date, Time & Venue of Pre-bid Meeting:	07.02.2025 at 11.30 a.m. at Office of the JD(AH), Ground Floor, Annex-3, N.R. Square, Bangalore - 560 002.
Last date and time for uploading the tenders in KPP Portal.	18.02.2025 upto 5.00 p.m.
Date of Opening of technical bids in KPP Portal.	19.02.2025 at 5.10 p.m.

Further details can be obtained from the KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in or office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Joint Director (Animal Husbandry).

Department of Public Libraries
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR, CITY CENTRAL LIBRARY, CENTRAL ZONE, No.35, 2nd Cross, BANGALORE-560 027
Tel: 22240920, 22248072, E-mail cclczone@gmail.com

CCL/CZ/A3/12/LibFur.sup/e-Tender/471/2024-25 Date: 04-02-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through kpp portal only)

Short term tender in two cover systems are invited for the year 2024-25 from eligible firms/companies for **Supply of Library Furniture's to City Central Library, Central Zone** and its Branches in Bangalore. Interested experienced firms/companies should participate through Kppp portal of Government of Karnataka.

The Amount put to tender is **Rs.200.00 lakhs.** EMD amount for the Tender is **Rs.4,00,000/-** Interested firms/companies can participate in the Tender through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in website.**

Last date for submission of Tenders is **12-02-2025 within 4.00 P.M.** Technical bid will be opened on **13-02-2025 at 4.30 P.M.**

The bidders may also contact undersigned for further details in this office on working hours.

Sd/- Deputy Director, City Central Library,
DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO4818/24-25 Central Zone, Bangalore

Government of Karnataka - Zilla Panchayat
Office of The Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
Ph.: 08262-220936 e-mail: zpedckm@rediffmail.com
Tender Notice No.:21/2024-25 Date:01.02.2025

Tender Notice

The Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Department, Chikkamagaluru invites tenders through KPPP for the works in Chikkamagaluru, Kadur, Koppa, N.R.Pura, Sringeri, Tarikere and Ajjampura Taluks of Chikkamagaluru District. The maximum estimated cost of the work is Rs.54.74 lakhs and the minimum estimated cost is Rs.4.00 lakhs. The details of a tenderer's capacity to undertake or manage work should be attached to tenders for the Standard Tender Documents KW-1, 2, and 3. The documents can be downloaded, filled and uploaded through K.P.P.P. from 01.02.2025 to 10.02.2025 upto 5.30 PM. The technical bid will be opened, if possible, on 12.02.2025 at 5.00 PM. The financial bid will be opened, if possible, on 15.02.2025 at 5.00 PM. In case of holidays on this particular dates, the next day will be considered. The notice/announcement can be read on the www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in website. For more details, please contact the Content Manager during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Chikkamagaluru
DIPR/CKM/KSMCA/24-25/154/1572

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